



# 再臨勇者の

【勇者やめて元魔王と組みます】

# 復讐譚

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Arc 3: Death Swamp

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# Chapter 1: The moving shadows, The next destination

The Brayon castle town of Onriin Kingdom.

The room in the upper level of the royal castle where only the people who were permitted by the king can enter. The interior is just simple but a spacious room without any decorations.

There was no sound inside the room which wrapped in dead silence and there were several human silhouettes can be seen stood in there.

They wore a jet black robe that seemed to shut the wearer in the lightless dark night itself. The hem of their right arm was decorated with a number made of golden embroidery.

For those who have quite a deep understanding of martial arts would have noticed it by looking at their abnormal movement which didn't make the slightest noise at all.

And for those with a deep knowledge regarding magic, they would have understood it very well too.

The first-class magic items they wore contained an enormous amount of magical power.

They can be classified as the magic user who is comparable to the Royal Court Mage itself and they even have martial art ability that even surpasses the knight's, too.

They are known as the "Selector".

A group of kingdom elite which has mastered every combat techniques either the sorcery or martial arts and it is a group that was under direct control of the king that will select and dispose of someone or anyone who will pose a threat to the kingdom.

Under the king's order, the selectors who had been on duty away from the royal capital had gathered and had a meeting in one of the rooms inside the

royal castle.

Not a single one of the selectors has open their mouth while there was a tension atmosphere floating in the room could be felt.

"Yo~"

Greet by a man who just entered the room.

It is a man in his middle age who wore the robe of the Royal Court Magician on his body. With his unkempt red hair and beard that keep on growing as it is. He had a pair of depressed eyes which give off a corrupted radiance that seems like it was confining every mistakenly held obsession within it.

The appearance that isn't suitable for such occasion which makes anyone who looked him will give out a messy impression at him. However, he does not even flinch from the heavy pressure that released by selectors as he stood firmly in front while facing them off.

"The order from His Majesty the king is simple"

Without making any introductory remarks, that man announces it to the selectors with his hoarse voice.

"There is no restriction on the captivity of the Brave Amatsuki Iori, either he dead or alive. Kill him if you must in order to seize him and get rid if there any interfeerer by using any means"

"....."

Silence runs in response to Luser who give the orders in his arrogant tone.

".....Then, your response?"(Luser)

""——Haa""

TN Haa\* is use to agreeing with a statement or to a request

A unified short answer.

As soon as it is done, the selectors start moving.

".....Tsk"(Luser)

Luser clicked his tongue while seeing them move out of the room.

While Luser mutters "Well, that's fine" in his small voice.

"Eventually, those bastards will fail. Well, from the very beginning I had no expectation out of them after all" (Luser)

After everyone had left, a man's voice echoes throughout the room.

"After all, I'm the only one who can kill him" (Luser)

As he narrows his muddy eyes, that man said.

"——Now then, Amatsu. Shall we begin the revenge?" (Luser)

Imperial Court magician.

Luser Gilban "The Great Magician". TN previously "The Great Mage"

While he laughing, it can be seen on his right arm where it should have been nothing previously has been attached to arms that were wrapped with the bandages.



There's the scent that tickles the nasal cavity and the sound of strong waves that gathered at regular intervals.

Another blue that wasn't empty without the cloud spread through the view and the voice of the people moving around in hurries while the continuous cry of the sea birds could be heard.

After a few days after we left the hot spring city, I and Elfi have arrived at the port town of the Federations.

As I say a port town, I can see a number of fishing boats come into my view.

While Elfi watched the figure of the fishermen that bringing back the captured fish curiously while she eating the hot spring steamed bun which she held in both her hands.

Our next destination is the Empire.

The Federations and the Empire are separated by the sea and we need to cross the sea by ship to head there. Therefore, we came to this port town which located at the southern end of the Federations.

"Sea, huh.....Somehow it make me want to eat some fresh fish dishes-na~....."  
(Elfi)

I dragged Elfi the Great Demon King of Gluttony in order to search for a ship to head to the Empire.

The sea is a stormy place and it is quite common that a ship won't departed when a demon appeared. Fortunately, I was able to find us a ship to reach the Empire and we wander around the port town after I confirm the next departure time.

It just looks like the Hot Spring City because even those who looked like adventurers were wandering around here, too.

"There are adventurers here as well, huh"(Elfi)

"Since the adventurers itself was originally from the Federations in the first place, you see"(Iori)

Most of the ships that crossing the ocean are hiring adventurers as guards and I wonder if many of those adventurers here are taking care of that escort task?

"Well.....we are also adventurers too, but"(Iori)

After the incident at the labyrinth of purgatory, both I and Elfi is being registered as adventurers in some way and our rank is A rank.

I do not have the plan to become active as an adventurer, but the guild cards I get when registering can become as my identification card. Because the adventurers' organisation is the organisation that was recognised by a lot of countries, then just by showing your guild cards to them, they should be able to trust you to a certain extent.

I walked for a while and entered the library and when a guild card is shown, it's possible to enter the building for free of charge. After that, I sit down in a seat in the corner and take a short rest.

"The Labyrinth of Hades and the Labyrinth of Purgatory and because the two labyrinths has fallen, the Maou forces should have begun their move soon"(Elfi)

".....There's no doubt that the existence of Elfi's probably already known by

them"(Iori)

I do not know how far did they have grasping the information regarding us. Albeit I've heard this and that from Beltoga and because that fellow seemed to be a goofer for Dionis, there is a high possibility that he doesn't leak the information regarding us to them.

"Aside the Maou forces, I dare to say that the kingdom is probably pursued me"(Iori)

"That Luser fellow, huh? If it's the present us is going to fought with him, probably he isn't a big threat for us now"(Elfi)

"No"(Iori)

I shake my head and explain it to Elfi.

I've heard it when I was in Kingdom in the past, the information about the "Selector".

"Fumu\*....."(Elfi) TN I see\*

"Each one of them has the ability more than those A rank adventurers itself. Thinking that Luser was leading them, I do not think I will lose, but they're troublesome"(Iori)

Well, it's information from thirty years ago, so I do not know what's going on now.

They maybe have become unexpectedly weakened.

"Tentatively, let's keep alert"(Iori)

After having had such a talk, I hunted for an information in the library. Because of the port town, there are many documents about the sea. I found the material that I looking for, but the information I'd like to know wasn't mentioned in it.

"Iori, what are you looking at from a while ago?.....Is that the record of the war three decades ago?"(Elfi)

"Something like that. I looked for it whether there was any information regarding one of the betrayers"(Iori)

That fellow in the Empire and I grasped the information regarding that fellow from the adventurers. Apparently, it seems that bastard has become aristocrat now.

"It seemed that there are no records regarding "that" left"(Iori)

Oh well, even if there is no information, I know what that bastard had done.

".....Just right, because I have a talk about my revenge before it's too late"  
(Elfi)

Elfi is bringing her face close as she drops the tone of her voice.

"I've told you when we fight against that Onizoku in the Labyrinth of Purgatory. The Onizoku who played with the corpse of my subordinate"(Elfi)

".....Yeah"(Iori)

"The person who killed my direct subordinate.....There are subjects of your revenge among them, too and they're Dionis and Lucifina"(Elfi)

Elfi teeth make a *GIRI* grind sound as she continued.

".....Regarding those two, I will lay my hand on those two, too"(Elfi)

Dionis and Lucifina.

They are former companions I want to take revenge the most.

For both of them, I ought to carry out more gruesome revenge beyond that I did to Merwin and Beltoga.

Still, I can't consent that I need to hand over those bastards to Elfi.

"I'm not telling you to let only me to exact my revenge on them. The revenge will be carried out by me and Iori.....is it no good?"(Elfi)

"....., I understood"(Iori)

I was helped many times by Elfi that make it possible for me to come this far.

I also made her go along with my revenge for a couple of times, too.

Also, there is no reason for me to refuse her suggestion.

"Then it has been decided. How about trying to squash them by using my【Heavy Collapse】?"(Elfi)



"That is no good because I won't kill them that easily"(Iori)

I and Elfi are "Partner".

Then, it won't be good if I make her go along with me, just for my own convenience, isn't it?

Because we're.....partner after all.



About an hour later, it was about time for the ship to leave the port.

When we showed the guild card, we were able to get on at a bargain price.

The destination is the Empire.

There's one of the five demon lord labyrinth known as the Labyrinth of Death Swamp. Plus, one of my revenge targets is there, too.

I went to the Empire while thinking about revenge method that I will use on "that woman".

## Chapter 2: The Two Walking On The Highway

Dardos Empire.

It is located in the southern part of Leytesha and greatly faces the sea.

Because of its environment, it is the country with the most developed fishery industry and shipbuilding industry among countries in Leytesha.

We left the Federations and came to the Empire.

We stayed overnight, after shopping this and that in the port town.

Currently, we are walking along the highway connecting the port town to our next destination.

As I say a highway, the highway is better than the forest of Urugus which we used when going to the Federations.

There are few clouds and the sunshine pours gently.

Monsters do not appear too much and it can be said that it is comfortable except for the fact that the hair gets slightly sticky due to the sea breeze.

"The Empire, huh.....NomNom. If I am not mistaken, this country excelled in magic, right?"(Elfi)

"To say that it excels, but the magical research is surely thriving"(Iori)

In most cases,the empire is responsible for many of the new magics.

Roughly speaking, the empire invents new magic while the kingdom and the Holy country improve and simplify it.

It was certain that the Empire is the one who spread the existence of "Mind magic" to the world.

"The Empire is a government based on meritocracy system and because of that they always welcome and gather the excellent magicians from other countries. Even that bastard Luser boasted that he was called out by the Empire"(Iori)

"Gulp.....That "Great Magician", wasn't it? He's certainly a capable magician

but I could not see him more than a coward-zo?"(Elfi)

"That's practically right. However, when it comes to magic skill, he is the real deal"(Iori)

Regardless of his nature, his ability that made him known as "The Strongest Magician" is genuine. Because that ability of his is beyond the magicians that the Empire is lining up.

He seems weakened now, but he was definitely one of the most powerful humans thirty years ago.

Because he was one of those rear type magicians, he was the kind of guy who can't demonstrate his skills without the vanguard.

"*HAMU* Chew..... What kind of magician was he?"(Elfi) "Should I say one of those "Area of Effect" type? He was capable of using magic with the magical power strength at the level of that Ortega"(Iori)

"*HamuHamu* Munch Munch.....How!"(Elfi)

That is why he held the confidence that he can defeat Ortega even without me.

"Well, I do not care about that bastard"(Iori)

"*Munch Munch*.....\*Swallowed\*?"(Elfi)

".....You, how long are you going to eat?"(Iori)

Elfi who walks while doing dance steps in good humour with both her hands holding food.

After the hot spring steamed buns which she bought up in the Federations have been completely eaten, now the fish skewers are being held by her.

This fellow always did nothing more than eating something after getting out of the labyrinth, huh.

"You're wrong Iori. Don't make light of the deliciousness of the seafood which has just been caught, you should try to eat some too"(Elfi)

"Hmm.....No thanks, though it is surely delicious"(Iori) This fellow, she spent the reward from the labyrinth subjugation only on food, didn't she.....?

She did nothing else than eating all the time while I'm purchasing adventure tools in the Federation and Empire.

"Did you forget? Its easy for me to get hungry with my current condition. My magical power is being consumed continuously in order to maintain my alter ego body. But by cancelling it, I could control my appetite to some extent-zo" (Elfi)

Then Elfi *KyoroKyoro* restlessly looked around before she canceled her alter ego body abruptly.

A floating head and a pair of arms which float on both sides.

Isn't she looking like an apparition?

She looks like some sort of the last boss in a shooting game.

"Well?"(Elfi)

"Don't "Well?" me, just turn back quickly"(Iori)

We advanced through the highway while having such exchanges.



As we keep walking, the sun is about to fall.

In the same way as the time in the Urugus Forest, both of us hasten with our preparations for camping outside.

Elfi was getting better at it as she had done it once before.

However, it seems to be more comfortable than before because I have purchased some tools and equipment for camping-out.

I made a soup with seafood using the pot that I bought in the Federation.

I did not have any problems with the ingredients of the dish because I have sufficient ingredients stored inside Elfi's head.

Though Elfi already ate a lot of fishery products skewer, she is pouring the soup filling her plate and gulping it down.

This fellow always showed that loose face every time she was eating.

"This SOUP! Iori! Call the chef over!"(Elfi)

"Haven't I told you already, that it was me?"(Iori)

Apparently, it seems she liked it.

"Fuu~....."(Elfi)

After finishing the meal, she let out a satisfactory breath.

Only the sounds of insects chirping and trees *ZawaZawa* rustling could be heard.

"Hey, Iori. What were you doing until you came to this world?"(Elfi)

Elfi who was staring at the bonfire fixedly, suddenly asked about such a thing.

"What I want to say is, you're unbalanced. If there's some mature part, there's some childish part, too. With that much skill and strength, I can say with confidence that it was something that usually comes with a lot of circumstances before you could reach this level"(Elfi)

"....."(Iori)

Even though I'm aware of it myself.

I'm poor at judging, completely trusting my comrades and drowning in an optimistic ideal.

It is not my physical body but my mind is badly immature.

".....I was a student"(Iori)

"Student?"(Elfi)

"School.....I went to the academy"(Iori)

Before I came here, I was 16 years old and I was a high school student.

I spend my daily lives just by following the flows somehow.

Except for the fact that my parents have died in the accident.....I should have been an ordinary student with weak motivation.

"Have you not fought?"(Elfi)

"Not at all, but at least my country was peaceful. There's no such thing as Mazoku nor magic and I did not care about conflict"(Iori)

I have never experienced being betrayed severely by someone either.

When I said all of those to the human in this world, they probably just see me as a “Flower Pot Head\*” guy.

TN \*someone with not many brains, or someone who’s head is full of nothing.

"The country where lori lived is surely a nice place"(Elfi) ".....Yeah"(lori)

"Do you not intend to return to your original world?"(Elfi) "If everything ends, I think I’ll look for it. However....."(lori)

".....”However”?"(Elfi)

"I do not know how time works out here and at that place"(lori)

Three decades have passed since I was summoned to a different world, although it is actually different.

If so much time already passed there, I will not have somewhere I can call home anymore.

My appearance hasn’t changed that much.

"....."

Silence.

The bonfire makes crackle sounds.

Has the mood turned a bit heavy?

"Fuu~"(Elfi)

".....Elfi?"(lori)

As she breathed out, Elfi got up to her feet.

"That reminds me, your strength has returned to some extent after you absorbed the labyrinth core, right. Let me confirm to what extent it has become, shall we?"(Elfi)

".....That was so sudden"(lori)

"It would be good for working off the meal, wouldn’t it?"(Elfi)

Breaking the atmosphere which became heavy, Elfi turns her arm around.

Well, that's a good opportunity because I haven't tried my power properly since my magical power returned.

"Got it"(Iori)

We move to the place away from the bonfire.

It is not so dark at night thanks to moonlight.

We took some distance with each other as we faced each other.

"Fu.....it fine to go with the intent to kill"(Elfi)

Elfi had a fearless smile while releasing her magical power.

By regaining both arms her magical powers has increased.

Literally, it seems that she have confidence in her arms.

My physical ability is raised from the effect gained by Jade Longsword and along with that I raise my physical ability with "Body Strengthening" and "Acceleration". As the amount of my magical power increased, it became possible for me to use some degree of magic without relying on the magic stone.

Nonetheless, by using the degraded versions of "Magic Usurpation" or "Magic Break Suppression" I'll lose most of my magical power using either of them and I have insufficient magical power to use "Magic Hit Reflection".

Though, it still doesn't change the fact that I still lose in the term of power after all.

Despite losing her power, the other party is the former Maou itself.

I enhanced the efficacy of my magic to the limit at the level it won't burden my body while holding the Jade Longsword.

"It's a handicap, because I won't be using my arms"(Elfi) Elfi let out a smile while raising both her arms that seem like she flaunting me.

She was crossing her arms, but in exchange of that, she is \*BuraBura\* aimlessly swinging her feet.

I guess she will come at me with her kicking technique.

"———"

I took a fighting stance while concealing my sword with my hands attached to the handle.

I drop my waist as I stop my movement.

"....."

Elfi had a dubious expression on her face looking at me who doesn't move.

After that, she muttering "Fumu",

"Well then, I come at you-zo" (Elfi)

With her arms folded, she kicked the ground vigorously.

That make her feet sink as the trees and plants shake by that power alone.

Elfi thrusts at me with the speed of a bullet. According to her words, she won't be using her arms and she seems to attack me with her footwork and she won't use either her arms or magic probably because right now she is going to wait and see before making her other moves.

Thus, she makes a leap that cut down our distance in an instant. Meanwhile, I made my move right before Elfi reaches me.

"———!!" (Elfi)

Iai\*. TN \* Is a combative quick-draw sword technique.

Counter swordsmanship also called as waiting sword in this world. It is a technique to slash the opponent who has made the first move at the moment they entered the suitable interval.

Dropping the power while placing the weight only on speed.

It is one of the fastest attacks that is as close as possible to the speed of my heydey.

However, with such a blow, Elfi simply coul———

"Ah!?" (Iori)

"Eh?" (Elfi)

She received it directly without being able to dodge it as the blade passes



easily through the neck of Elfi.

As it was, Elfi's head \*PoW\* as it flew away somewhere in the forest.

While the body which lost its head is falling down to the ground with a flop.

".....eh?"(Iori)

Elfi which lost her head is reflected in my view while being illuminated by the moonlight.

The sound fades away as it doesn't even move an inch.

At that time when I thought of what shall I do.

".....Ah"(Iori)

Elfi's head has returned.

She gets up unsteadily after her head fits snugly into the body which it separated from.

Moreover, a sweat like a bead appeared on her face.

Elfi breathes roughly while she glares at me.

"DO YOU INTENT TO KILL ME!"(Elfi)

"Aren't you the one that told me to come at you with the intent to kill!?"(Iori)

She seems to have got considerably flustered.

She put her hands on her chest so as to suppress palpitations before wiping her sweat.

No, doesn't she have no heart right now?

"I-I thought I was going to die-zo"(Elfi)

".....to that extent, huh?"(Iori)

"When I see those flash just now, considerably amount of your power have come back, was it not?"(Elfi)

".....No, not at all"(Iori)

I could not make that speed unless I sacrificed the power. If it's a human it will be enough to killed them but it's won't do so if its a demonic being or a

Mazoku. Even with that speed, it would be my end if its being resisted by something such as the flame dragon and the Earth Demon Lord.

".....I've thought about it from before but lori's swordsmanship is quite a thing-na"(Elfi)

"Well, more or less"(lori)

.....I was taught by my former companion for a while.

".....I'm going to sleep because I'm somewhat tired"(Elfi) Then Elfi stopped the fight and went back to the bonfire.

Despite being careless, it seems that she was in shock after losing her head.

If that fellow is serious, that won't be enough to outdo her demon eyes and in the first place, I think that she would repel it with her magical power.....

I decided to sleep after I wiped off my sweat.

It was a mystery why Elfi got quite close to me somehow when I put off the bonfire.

I fell asleep while wondering about that.



The next day.

Along with Elfi, I walk on the highway.

The scenery changed as we advanced and the distance grassland has come into our view.

".....It's surely nostalgic"(lori)

"Have you been here before?"(Elfi)

"Yeah, It was when I came here to subjugate the labyrinth of death swamp thirty years ago"(lori)

I have some familiarity.

During my travelling days, I helped people that were attacked by the demonic being.

So, to show off their gratitude there's a feast and dance for relaxation.

Furthermore, there are some peoples that I've become close with, too.

What are the people of that village doing now?

It was when I was advancing the road while being flooded with such nostalgic feeling.

".....This is"(Iori)

From the front, I heard the neigh of the horse. Besides that, a succession of small explosion sounds also could be heard, too. I exchange looks with Elfi while we're slowly heading in the direction of the sound.

"Is it a demonic being....."(Iori)

I saw that a carriage was attacked by the demonic being right ahead. The coachman of the carriage and those riding in it are fighting against the demonic being using their magic.

The demonic being that attacked the carriage is known as the "Mud Bear".

It a powerful demonic being which use earth magic with its mouth to chase its prey.

There's six of them that are attacking the carriage at the same time.

".....That's unusual"(Iori)

As for the mud bear, basically, they only act alone.

If that number gathers, it isn't strange for them to start preying on one another.

Even so, it strange for the mud bear to lead the others.

They let out some hard breathing without letting out a roar while attacking in coordination. It was unnaturalness as they are being manipulated by something.

"....."

When I feel something strange about it and narrow my eyes.

A scream broke out from the carriage.

Even if there's only one of them is already a nuisance but right now there are

six of them.

It seems that the magician which riding those carriage seems pretty good as they able to hold out, even so, it won't last for a long time.

What should I do?

'.....!'

At that time, one of the mud bear which attacking the carriage *Gurun* turned its head toward us.

"It seems to have noticed us"(Elfi)

Two of the six stopped attacking the carriage and began running frantically toward our direction.

As I say a bear, their running speed is quite a thing.

"Tsk, we have no choice but to fight?"(Iori)

"Just right, should I also check on the condition of my “arms” that I’ve just regained?"(Elfi)

With that, the one on one battle against the attacking demons has begun.

## Chapter 3: Five Nail Which Rips The Ground

The mud bear came closer while turning its bloodshot eyes this way.

We intercept the two of them which came to us.

The mud bear is a ferocious demon but is a coward at the same time.

When its being attacked by their opponents, they would get frightened by the pain.

Furthermore, they should escape from that place if you inflicted more damage to them.

"Hah!"(Iori)

It evades my downward blow that had all my strength in it as the mud bear scoops it up in a flash.

Though its blood gushes out, it seems that it isn't enough to cut it off.

While groaning in pain, the bear once again swung down its arm.

Countering that, I avoid it by sidestepping it off. E/N:Changed dance it off to sidestepping.

At the same time, I concentrate my attack on the part that I cut earlier.

The blood is scattered all over as the movement speed of its right arm has fallen as it is.

So, I back off deliberately to provoke the mud bear to go on offensive.

Toward the arms that flung against the ground, I swung down my sword from an overhead position.

Thus, the right arm of the mud bear falls to the ground.

The mud bear should try to escape after being inflicted with damage that cost it one of its

arms——

'————'

Or it should have, as it swung down its remaining left arm.

I elude it with the Jade Longsword while I jumped backwards using the recoil created by it.

"These mud bears condition is strange"(Iori) "You're right, I've performed some light observation with my demon eyes on them, too. Far

from being frightening it seem they're going all out"(Elfi) The line of sight from all six mud bears is facing our way. They seem to have regarded us as a

threat rather than those people who are riding that carriage. There are some mud bears

receiving the attack from Elfi's demon eyes and losing parts of their bodies, but they do not

seem to feel any pain from it.

"Its probably a new species born during those thirty years"(Elfi)

"That might be the case too, however....."(Iori) Six mud bears have begun to move at the same time. Running on the ground with their four feet

and making a semi circle fighting formation. Obviously, they are working together.

"For now, let's eliminate it with my arms and Iori, you withdraw from there"(Elfi)

Thus, Elfi steps forward.

"Now, pay attention closely to me. So, you can worship me the moment I show you the real

power of the (Former) demon king.....!"(Elfi) Elfi said those lines in a high-spirited voice while she says those (Former) part in a subdued

voice. Not on her eyes, but the magic is concentrated on her right arm. She spreads five of her fingers as she takes a stance that was about to stab her nail.

"——&quot;Devil Arm • The Destructive Ripping Of Judgement&quot;——"  
(Elfi)

The magical power which covered her arm has formed five huge claws. As it is, Elfi mows her

right arm at the mud bears that were headed towards her.

Nails that are reminiscent those of the dragon kind are being thrust toward the mud bears

and reaches them simultaneously. With that, the body of five mud bears were torn up to pieces

and scattered all over. While, five deep scars are carved on the ground, the shock wave

produced out of it is shaking the neighbouring trees and plants intensely.

Indeed it's an overkill.

The one which could avoid that was only one of them which got a late start. That sole mud bear

has been blown away after receiving Elfi's shock wave, too.

'————'

That last one of them is turning its body around to changed its target from us to the carriage.

It's the one which I cut off its right arm earlier.

The people at carriage seemed to be distracted by Elfi's blow and because of that, they reaction is delayed and being caught off guard by the sole mud bear which turned over toward their

direction.

.....It's inevitable.

"Fu——!"(Iori)

Aiming the hind leg of the mud bear which ran toward the carriage in its four pairs, I threw two knives. That knife has pierces the hind leg of the mud bear

which turned its back on us deeply.

That was the knife forged by Zoorutsu and it has considerable sharpness.

The mud bear stopped moving after being stabbed by the knives.

Passing by Elfi's I came close to that mud bear. It turns its body at me while opening its mouth as it trying to intercept me.

I concentrate my magical powers as I fired rocks at——

"——Fuh!"

The mud bear wasn't able fired its magic.

The reason is because it was killed swiftly before it able to do so.

The head of the mud bear with its mouth open fell on the ground.

The six mud bears which disturbed the highway were wiped out and the battle was over.



"Thank you very much!"

After the battle with the mud bears.

A woman quickly jumped out of the carriage and thanked us loudly. As it is, she comes running over toward us.

The lady running is a woman in her twenties who is in a dress. Besides the dress, she's wearing

ornaments such as necklaces and rings, too. From her appearance, she's probably an aristocrat.

".....probably an aristocrat, don't behave impolitely because it's troublesome when you make

them angry"(Iori)

"Of course, I wouldn't"(Elfi)

Simultaneous when I give a warning to Elfi in a low voice, that woman has arrived in front of us.



"Haa.....Haa.....Thank you so much for helping me who was in a dire situation!!"

With long red hair which showed its been taken good care off, it was a woman with

characteristic big madder red eyes. Wearing some light makeup while having some attractive

red lips. She seemed to wear perfume as a sweet smell drifted softly.

..... It is supposed to be my first meeting with her, but somehow I have a sense of deja vu from

it.

Apart from that, I felt a different magical power from her. Rather than human magical power, it is close to Elfi and Mazoku ones.

"You don't need to thank me, but is it fine your side over there?"(Iori)

"Yes, although it was a dangerous situation, none of us had serious injuries"

According to the woman's story, when they passed the highway with a horse-drawn carriage, it

seems that they were suddenly ambushed by the mud bears. This neighbourhood is a

maintained one, so there should be a few demons. As a result, that's why they don't have

sufficient fighting power and it seems that they were in a grave situation if we were not here to

help them out.

She had a loud voice but her good upbringing is transmitted from her tone and conduct.

However, unlike those aristocratic in the kingdom, she doesn't have that arrogant attitude on

her.

That alone is a good impression.

If its those guys, they would be shouting from the very beginning something as "Why did you not help ME earlier!"

"Karen-sama!"

From the carriage, a man who looks like an attendant came over here. It is a yellow-haired man

just before his thirties.

"We do not know whether it's really safe, please don't move around mindlessly"

"It's OK! Because these people have beat those demonic beings and it's safe!"  
(Karen)

"....."

A man who called that woman Karen, turned his eyes *Chirari* glancing toward us. From that

gaze, I felt something like there are sharp thorns from it.

".....Judging from your clothes, it looks like both of you aren't from around here. Excuse me

for my rudeness, where did you come from?"

With a sullen look, the man asks for our identity. Do you want to say that "a lowborn shouldn't get close to a lady?" As a result, it is a very attitude of the person which received help from me, huh.

".....We are these sort of people"(Iori) While not showing it on my face, I just took out my guild card from the pouch. For this kind of

occasion, I was an adventurer.

"Adventurer of the Federations.....In addition to that, both of you are A ranked.....!"(Karen)

Amazed, that woman is putting her hand on her mouth. That man narrows his eyes while

staying silent. At least, with this, we won't be made light of.

"Forgive me for my late introduction, My name is Karen Rayford!"(Karen)

".....I'm Karen-sama's attendant, Jean"(Jean) Karen emphasised herself as an imperial aristocrat and was the lord's daughter of the Rayford

territory that lies ahead.

I have heard a family named Rayford.

That deja vu that I felt when seeing Karen a short while ago, could it be.....

"I'd like to ask.....Did you know Gouache Leonard?"(Iori) "That is my father's name.....do you know my father!?"(Karen) "———"

Gouache Reynard.

It is the noble who I got to know when I came to the empire thirty years ago.  
We have fought

together and that alone left my impression at him. He was one of those who I  
wanted to meet

the most.

"He's like an old.....acquaintance of mine"(Iori) "Really?....."(Karen)

Karen darkened her expression at my words for some reason.

A slightly bad feeling is float across my chest.

"By any chance, did you come here because you had some business with my  
father?"(Karen)

"No, it is a coincidence. We had some business with the Labyrinth of Death  
Swamp"(Iori)

Karen holds her tongue while shaking her head.

".....Unfortunately, you can not enter the labyrinth right now, even if you're  
an adventurer

that probably came here to subjugate the labyrinth"(Karen) ".....Why is  
that?"(Iori)

I have a bad premonition from it. I heard Elfi letting out some small breath

while keeping her

eyes closed.

I feel the same, too.

".....This is because the barrier has been set up in the labyrinth"(Karen)

"The barrier, isn't it?"(Iori)

Karen said.

The barrier is being set up in order to prevent the demonic being from going outside.

It is good until that.

The barrier should have been set in the labyrinth of the Kingdom.

Judging from Karen way of talking, there seem to be some complicated circumstances

happening too. But that was a good thing, too.

But the problem was her next word.

"The one who put up those barriers to Labyrinth are———"(Karen)

The name of the aristocrat who set up the barrier to the labyrinth are.

"It's the aristocrat called——Olivia Elieresire"(Karen) Unexpectedly, my body has shaken a bit. However, Karen does not seem to be able to see it as I

suppressed my mouth.

".....Iori?"(Karen)

I was surprised that the woman who I helped was a daughter of my former acquaintance.

It was a wonderful coincidence itself.

However, it was something unexpected for me to heard that name from the woman(daughter of

my former acquaintance) itself.

Olivia Elieresire.

It is the name of the woman who betrayed me.

## Chapter 4: Olivia Elieresire

Olivia Elieresire is a magician. Of course, Olivia is a versatile magician who can master the magic of all fields such as healing magic and Soul magic and not to mention the battle magic, too.

Because her skill has been valued high, that woman been attached to the magical corps of the imperial army. At the same time, she seems to have done research on magic that stabilises the mind and enhances the physical abilities.

I've met that woman when I came to the empire together with my party members.

"I am Olivia Elieresire, it is a pleasure to meet you....."Hero Amatsu"-sama. I've always wanted to meet and having some good conversation with you for a while"(Olivia)

Although she seems not to be a noble, her wording was beautifully outspoken. Moreover, her attitude and appearance was also good and well arrange as well. She was a polite beautiful woman with an excellent magic skill and that is my impression of Olivia when I meet her for the first time.

Well, as usual, it's only a story of when I didn't see or realise the true character of that woman.

Then it is about approximately several weeks later when I come to know the true character of Olivia.

The magician corps which commanded by her was exterminated except Olivia herself.

Instead, she succeeded in subjugating the close aide of the Four Heavenly King of the Maou forces.

The empire is a country that emphasises ability and results. Despite her corps got annihilated, the achievement of her defeating the aides was great, and because of that Olivia was greatly evaluated. It would be a good thing if it will end with just that, however...

"There's a magic that I want Amatsu-sama to see"(Olivia)

She has used a certain magic into her strategy that has to enable her to defeated that aide. And the name of that magic is the “Brainwash Magic” The effect is to remove a concept such as fear and the pain from the target brain, while they will only think about defeating their enemy.

"Brainwash.....Magic"(Iori)

"That’s right, with this achievement, it was proved that this brainwash magic was effective, you see. I intend to suggest the use of this magic at the Four Heavenly King subjugation strategy meeting"(Olivia)

Olivia told me the effect of brainwash magic and

while she did that, she looks happy from the bottom of her heart. As it is, Olivia continues her words without noticing me who got petrified after hearing all of those.

"With my magic, the winning percentage on the human side should rise greatly. Therefore at the strategy meeting, I would like Amatsu-sama to put a good word for my suggestion to goes through by all means"(Olivia)

Albeit I couldn’t catch up with Olivia’s words.

What with all those things that she have said.....?

"That’s, that sort of thing is....."(Iori)

The face of the people who were in Olivia’s corps emerged in my head. Because I’ve talked with them before they execute those operations. There’s a man who entered the military for sake of protecting his family and a demi-human who is fighting to feed his younger brother.

"Could you mean that you use such magic on your comrades.....?"(Iori)

"Yes, of course, I did. Everyone died because they can’t think anything else other than defeating their enemy. Well, it was a necessary sacrifice after all"(Olivia)

Her sense of values that is totally different from the world where I come from. For sake of victory, Olivia didn’t show that she grieving over her corps that was completely annihilated by her actions.

"They.....Do you have their consent to use that “brainwash magic” on them?"

(Iori)

"Consent.....Why is there such a thing? They are just no other than magicians with no great merits, aren't they?"(Olivia)

Necessary sacrifice.

A large number of magicians who doesn't have any great merit.

She even had a smile on her face when she said those things toward her dead comrades.

"Besides, there were some demi-human mixed among them. Because of they just a dirty livestock who could die for sake of us the human, they would felt proud to do so. Therefore consent is not necessary. By the way, what more important is———"(Olivia)

By looking at Olivia's eyes and listening to her words, I've understood it well. She does not consider the humans who are in her corps as her comrades or friends. However, she only thinks of them as a tool for her to use.

Even I who have a poor eye at judging other could understand it very well that this woman thinks only about herself. She only thinking of using her friends as a food to raising her own position.

Drown by ideals, I at that time who was brimmed over with the sense of justice impeached her. Such "As if such kind of magic will be recognised" or "What did you think of your friends is?"

"I-I don't know what you're angry about?"(Olivia)

Olivia had the expression such as can't understand on her face. On the contrary, she tries to seduce me as she stretching her dress.

After that incidents, I've informed those incidents to the empire side. I guessed it would be a problem if they try to ignore the words of brave. What follows after that is, Olivia's research was banned and that brainwash magic was declared as forbidden art.

And then a while has passed.

Olivia took part in my killing. On condition that my body is to be handed over to her as an experiment material.



"With my magic, I'll break down the chain of command of the human army. Well, even if when a lot of people will die either there's hundreds or thousands of them, that doesn't matter because it's a necessary sacrifice"(Olivia)

"I shall make them recognise my research this time by using that man body"(Olivia)

"Because "Hero Amatsu" will be unnecessary after he defeat the Maou, It's a "necessary sacrifice" for him to be betrayed and die unsightly after all"(Olivia)

A hero who lost his utility value is no more than just a "food".

The appearance of Olivia who says so and laughs is still burning in my mind.



Gouache which was her father has been missing while the labyrinth has been sealed by Olivia.

After explaining those to us, Karen said.

".....The two of you were adventurers, aren't you? There is a thing I'd like to request"(Karen)

"Karen-sama!"(Jean)

Rebuked by Jean whose was Karen attendant, she.

"To rely on such persons!? What on earth are you thinking!?"(Jean)

"Then, do you tell me to sit down and just watch without try to do something about it?"(Karen)

"However.....!"(Jean)

Before long after Karen convincing Jean she came over asking me whether I would like to hear her story.

"I will leave it to lori"(Elfi)

".....Got it"(lori))

Elfi kept her eyes closed as she said so.

I nod my head in assent while pondering about it.

It may be possible for me to get some strong information as Olivia's name

could be heard. While it may be true that I was holding it in, it wasn't to the degree where I was about to "flip out\*" because of it. TN \*To lose control of oneself

Alright.

"I can't consent if I don't understand request contents and could you talk about the content of the request?"(Iori)

For the time being, I decided to hear her story.



As Karen was going to tell me her story, it was decided that we will listen to her story in the carriage. Although Jean is staying silent, his displeasure could be felt transmitted from him. Either if Karen does not realise about it, she began talking about the circumstances regarding that request of her.

The Rayford family is appointed by the emperor to seal the labyrinth.

The Labyrinth of Death Swamp is located in the immediate vicinity of Rayford territory and additional to that, Gouache was an excellent barrier magician himself.

It's said that Gouache has maintained the barrier all the while since from Ortegia have created a newly Five Demon Lord Labyrinth.

The demonic being has not caused any damages and peace continued for the time being because of the divine protection of the barrier.

However, several months ago.

The demonic being has overflowed from the labyrinth that is supposed to have a barrier and following those events the Rayford territory was attacked. Several victims appear from the population of the fief, moreover, Karen's mother has died during those incidents, too.

A few days later.

The demonic being has begun to go out again despite Gouache has reinstated the barrier. This time not only the Rayford territory but the neighbouring territory was being attacked too. In the territory Olivia Elieresire, the demonic being side has suffering damages.

Probably, with all those meritorious deeds she seems to have become a noble after the war was over.

"Because Rayford 's barrier can not be trusted, Olivia said that she herself will set up those barrier"(Karen)

However, Gouache declined it and was going to set the barrier against the labyrinth more severely, unfortunately, he has gone missing when he was about to do so.

"Therefore.....I will set that barrier on the labyrinth in place of my father....."  
(Karen)

Again, the demonic being has inflicted damages in Olivia's territory. Therefore, it seems that Olivia has occupied the labyrinth and arbitrarily created the barrier herself. After that, the damage caused by the demonic being has never appeared.

"Either my dear father or my own barrier, there's should not have any defects with it. Although it did not cause much damage ten years ago....."(Karen)

"....."(Jean)

While searching for gouache, Karen told Olivia to return the labyrinth which being occupies by her. It said that she have met with Olivia many times but she doesn't seem to pay any mind to her request.

"Untill, we were attacked by a demonic being on the highway own our way home ....."(Karen)

"It feels like.....artificiality-like thing, aren't they?"(Iori)

".....You were right. My father's disappearance and for the damage that causes by the demonic being.....I believe that Olivia is involved in it"(Karen)

Generally, I understood the circumstances. Somehow, I can also understand what kind of thing this incident is.

"So, what kind of request that you want to ask us to do?"(Elfi)

"You Insolent—"(Jean)

Karen stops Jean who tried to shout at Elfi's way of speech.

In a formal tone, Karen tells us.

"I want you to search for my dear father.....Also, I'd like to request an investigation regarding those series of incidents"(Karen)

"....."(Iori)

"Of course, I will give you a suitable reward"(Karen)

I recall it back.

About Gouache, Karen's father.

He saved my life once.

That Gouache has been missing and his daughter is in trouble.

I thought I'd like to give her my assistance only a little.

But, what we are doing now is not a journey of helping others. I am not supposed to deviate from my real purpose. To regain my power and accomplish my revenge.

That's the purpose of this journey.

Then.

"A suitable reward, you said"(Iori)

"Yes"(Karen)

To Karen who nodded, I spoke of my condition in response to her request.

Firstly, grant us the permission to enter the labyrinth after the end of the request.

Secondly, hand me the information which requested by me by using the power of her house.

This is the condition that I gave her.

"I understand, I'll promise you the reward"(Karen)

I'm quite sure that Olivia got involves this request in nine cases out of ten.

It is an ideal story to retaliate on that woman.

Then if that the case, there's no way I won't lay my hand on this golden

opportunities.

"Though I have poor ability for such task, I'll gladly receive your request"(Iori)

With that, we decided to accept Karen's request.

## Chapter 5: Not worth listening to

After that, we got on Karen's carriage and headed for Rayford territory and after accepting that request, it seems that we to be allowed to stay in the mansion of Karen's until we completed our tasks.

"....."

The carriage wheel turns around creating the *KaraKara* rattling sounds while the passes through scenery could be seen from the window. We were fortunate to be able to get on the carriage because I was going to walk to the labyrinth of death swamp by foot.

"Come to think of it, lori-san has told me that you were was going to met my dear father and what kind of relationship that you have with him?"(Karen)

".....Long time ago, my life has been saved by Gouache-san"(lori)

While answering Karen's question, I remember the time when that I met him before.

Gouache was a magician with a kind character.

The gentle-hearted and a cowardly man who trembles just by looking at the blood.

And at the same time, he's a mixed one.....the "half demon".

A man who was able to communicate with both Mazoku's and humans.

Gouache was an aristocrat, but it seems that he was severely slandered because he was a mixed one.

But a Gouache didn't break as he overcame the discrimination by deciding to do what he must that resulting him to be recognised by a lot of people around him. I still remembered seeing him being loved by the population of his fief.

Moreover, Gouache was better at protecting more than fighting. By using magic item known as the "Essential Stone" which being hand down to the Rayford house from generation after generation and that magic item will enhance the effectiveness of the barrier magic. He has protected his people

from the invading Maou forces.

'I can not fight like Amatsu-san because I'm only a coward who shaking by just looking at blood.....'(Gouache)

'But even so, such I also have a merit called as the barrier magic'(Gouache)

'Even I can't fight, I will protect my family, my friends and the people who live in my territory——important people with it'(Gouache)

'Because of such reason, I will fight with everything I have Amatsu-san'(Gouache)

Gouache was saying such a thing when I talked with him back then. I remember the feeling like my breath has been taken away after having heard those unexpected words from him who always have that gentle look.

A short time after that, I fell into a predicament as I and my party fell into the scheme of “Thousand Transformations” one of the Four Heavenly Kings. In the situation where we have worn out by a series of battles, “Thousand Transformations” and a lot of demonic beings flocked toward us. No ones were able to do something regarding the demonic beings that were sent by the “Thousand Transformations”.

At that time, it was Gouache who have come to the rescue. Though he shouldn't like fighting, he rushed up to the rescue.

With the barrier that he has spread, we able to rearranged our formations.

At that time, I would lose my life if gouache did not come that time.

Somehow, that make me wondering did Lucifina and Dionis had some countermeasures to handle those situations?

"....."

By the story of Karen, her mother.....Gouache wife seems to have died while Gouache himself is also missing, too.

I wonder if he is still alright.

I thought at that time.

He who have more “courage” is more suitable to be “brave” than I am. If it

were a guy like Gouache Rayford who has a firm belief, he surely won't be swayed by anyone.

"....."

And several hours later.

When the sun was about to go down, we finally arrived at Rayford territory.



The Rayford territory that I saw for the first time in a while was less lively than before. I can not explain it well, but when I saw it before, I remembered the impression that the whole area was quite lively. Either if it was cause being coupled together with sight during the sunset, it seems to have been deserted now.

.....No wonder.

The territory is being damaged by the demonic beings and it is said that some peoples have been missing, too.

Gouache which is a feudal lord is one among them. In such a situation, it would be strange if one could be lively after such a thing had happened.

We were shown and came to a residence of Rayford family.

The exterior has changed a lot probably because thirty years has passed since then.

We get off the carriage and enter the mansion.

After being guided to the guest's room where we stay overnight. Albeit it was slightly early but had supper at dinner in a dining room. There does not seem to be so much number of servants as there several people are lining up a dish diligently.

There, Karen who has changed her clothes from a dress to relaxed clothes came along with Jean.

While in a hand of Karen there's a piece of a letter was grasped.

"Karen, that is....."(Jean)

".....It is from His Majesty the Emperor"(Karen)



In the letter, it seems to have been written addressing toward Karen to send her a notice to come over to the Imperial Palace as the representative of Rayford House. It may be something regarding the matter of the labyrinth seal. Judging from Karen's complexion, she unlikely to hear a very good report.

".....For the labyrinth seals, we have to use the magic item known as the "Essential Stone" that being handed down to the Rayford House. As the name implies, it is the stone that becomes the vital point of the barrier itself"(Karen)

"Is there something happens to it?"(Iori)

"It have been taken away by Olivia when she occupied the labyrinth.'This is a tool to build the barrier. Therefore, use your own effort to create the barrier own your own from now on', is what she said"(Karen)

Karen has repeatedly demanded the return of essential stone and the occupation right of the labyrinth from Olivia. However, Olivia ignores it completely while she continues to create the barrier on her own accords.

"The labyrinth seal, it is the life of the Rayford House.

Since my father and mother are gone, I have to defend my territory.....!"  
(Karen)

The disheartening suppose to be Karen has said those words firmly.

.....She exactly like Gouache.

Resemble him, those words that transmitted by Karen is shown that she strongly thinking about the people of her fief.

"But.....I wonder why that woman Olivia has done such irresponsible things"  
(Iori)

"Actually, I happening to know something regarding that"(Karen)

Karen closed her eyes to suppress her emotions and said.

"I think Iori has already noticed it.....that I'm a "Mixed""(Karen)

".....Well, I realised that you not just a mere human from the quality of your magical power"(Iori)

"Olivia herself seems to hate the races others than humans...So, no wonder

she had fixed her eyes on me after all"(Karen)

In addition, both Gouache and Karen has Mazoku blood flowing in them. Furthermore, there are several demi-humans and half-Mazoku that live in the Rayford territory. It is said that Gouache accepted those who lost their place to live that cause by the Maou forces.

In the past, Olivia had said the demi-humans and half-Mazoku are no more than a "Dirty livestock". It is not an unthinkable story because she probably doesn't like both Gouache and Karen very much. There may be something else regarding the matter about those sealing, but it won't matter to me because I will get that information out of her while torturing her thoroughly.

"Gezz.....as for our next target, it seems that she was a quite worthless one, too-na"(Elfi)

"That fellow was never a decent one in the first place-na"(Iori)

We had dinner while having a conversation and if it's the aristocrat of the Kingdom, "How about the eating manners?", "Can you eat together with a commoner?", but Karen does not say anything to break the ice. Meanwhile, the attendant who waiting behind her were scowling at us silently.

"I have to head to the Imperial capital tomorrow, I am sorry though I just made my request"(Karen)

An Imperial capital, huh?

"Would you bring us along to the Imperial capital?"(Elfi)

Elfi suggested such thing.

By the story so far, Olivia seems to be targeting Karen too.

By moving together with Karen, I might be able to grasp the movement of that woman, too.

"Of course, I don't mind"(Karen)

Although it was an impudent favour, Karen acknowledged it with a smile. To just accept just "bring us along" as the reason is. By the way, I propose that we would tag along as an escort.

Karen nodded with “By all means, please do so!”.

Thus, we’re going to go to the Imperial capital, too.

After dinner, we borrowing the bathhouse to wash away our harsh sweat before we went to our respective rooms.

It is a story that I heard before entering the room that Olivia has rise becoming an aristocrat after she exterminated the demonic beings that attacked the Empire.

The empire is a country that emphasis on ability. Originally the demi-human and half-Mazoku would be suffered social ostracism, but when the emperor caught an illness and was close to his death bed, it was either the demi-human or half-Mazoku who have cured the imperial majesty from that illness. That was the starting point where the demi-humans and the half-Mazoku have been recognised. Whether you are humans, a demi-human or half-Mazoku, you will be recognised if you leave a result.

The reason why Olivia becomes a noble will be that her achievement of demon extermination was accepted by the emperor.

Now after being omitted from the army, she seems to shut herself off in the Eliesteel territory as an aristocrat.

".....That woman, how’s you going to retaliate against her? Do you think about that right now?"(Elfi)

I might find something useful to be used at the Imperial City tomorrow.

Thus, I fell asleep while thinking about such a thing.

The next day, we rode in a carriage and left for a capital first thing in the morning. Karen, her attendant and us to get into the carriage while we were being responsible for the guarding albeit we didn’t encounter any demonic beings in our way.

"We have arrived!"(Elfi)

Grandsilk Empire, Imperial capital Van Del.

The Imperial capital is covered by a hard walled wall and it is also called a castle town. Even in the battle thirty years ago, the existence of this castle wall

was great.

The large castle gate which is the entrance to the Imperial capital is protected by a gatekeeper and thanks to Karen, we managed to get inside easily.

"Wow....."(Elfi)

The Imperial capital scenery which after we pass through the large castle gate was flourishing beyond the hot spring town. Just as magical research is flourishing, the magic items that light up the light and the barrier are being installed everywhere.

It would take a considerable cost just to maintained it.

Elfi seemed impressed as she spilt a sigh when saw the scene unfold in front of her eyes.

"lori,lori! There are some appetising pastries is being sold there-zo. They seem to have sandwiched fish eggs, too!"(Elfi)

"Yeah, You're right"(lori)

Yes, I knew it.

From the start that is what you looking at, huh.

"For the time being we will head to the Imperial Palace"(Karen)

It seems that both I and Elfi will enter the Imperial palace as an attendant albeit Jean was opposed to it. This is the first time that I go as an attendant although I have experienced a lot of audiences with either king or the emperor during my journey back then. Elfi immediately bought some seasoned cod roe French bread-like thing and *BakuBaku* gobbles it up. I quickly dust off the spilt breadcrumbs because it has scattered all over her clothes.

"lori-san and Elfi-san is really looking like an elder brother and her little sister"(Karen)

Looking at we are, Karen let out a smile.

"Well, anyhow it the opposite, and did you said that I'm the little sister!?"(Elfi)

"Hehe, it is. Actually both of you is not a brother-sister, aren't you?"(Karen)

"Yes, This fellow and I only have a relation as a traveling companion and there

is no blood connection between us.

We started to travel together was only recently, too"(Iori)

"Well, is that so? I saw that both of you got a very close relationship and because of that, I thought that both of you have been acquaintance for along time"(Karen)

Elfi spilt breadcrumbs while saying that I am not a sister or the like.

I guess probably her real age is older than me though.....

Anyway, why did she disappointing?

"Karen-sama, we have arrived at the Imperial Palace"(Jean)

".....Got it"(Karen)

Meanwhile, we have arrived at the Imperial Palace. It is a platinum castle made from a strong magical material.

It won't budge even if it being hit by an advanced magic because it already being engraved by the defence magic similar as the castle wall itself. The impressiveness of the Imperial castle it is by no means inferior to the castle wall.

"Hmph.....It is nothing compared to my castle though"(Elfi)

I take up bread from the hand of triumphing Elfi and put it away in the pouch after keeping it in the bag. Because it won't be a good thing if the breadcrumbs are going to be spill all over the castle, won't it.

I think I might exaggerate it, but it just for in case.

Karen introduced herself to the guarding soldier before entering a castle. When she show the crest of the house of Rayford and the letter which she received from the emperor, her entry was approval smoothly.

"Who are them?"

"They are my attendants and can you give them an entry permission, too?"  
(Karen)

"Yes, it is all right. However, I will keep all the weapons"

I undergo a physical exam from a soldier and handed down all weapons and everything that give off the magical reactions to the soldier. Because I am afraid that there any problems might occur, I've stored the valuable items in the pouch beforehand.

Elfi is also put on the ring to hides her real nature, too. It seems that it is becoming difficult to distinguish it unless it is checked by using the observation of the demon eye class. She was able to enter the castle as they do not perceive the ring.

Receiving guidance, we will move through the castle.

When we reach near the audiences chamber, Jean and we are being forbidden to move further in because from here onwards you can not enter without the emperor's permission.

"Well then, I should get going. Jean and lori-san, please wait there for a moment"(Karen)

"Yes, I understand"(Iori)

"Please take care, Karen-sama"(Jean)

In that way, Karen walked toward the audience chamber.

We who stayed will be on standby in the waiting room. Because there is a guard outside of the room so we cannot walk about freely.

"....."

Jean remains silent after we enter the room.

As usual, he seems to be displeased.

I tried speaking to him, but he did not reply.

"What the hell with that man....."(Elfi)

Elfi is looking at Jean with a disgusting face.

I was leaning against on a tender sofa and I thought about a certain thing while looking at the chandelier on the ceiling.

The contents are about this case.

Even if I say so, there is already rough expectation concerning this case. In the end, this was something around my expectation because if it were something such this degree it would be her doing by considering what that woman capable off.

I just need to obtain that conclusive evidence afterwards.

"Hey, they were selling "that" particular potion on our way we coming here, wasn't it?"(Iori)

"Yes, the one that has a lasting healing effect, wasn't it? What's wrong with that?"(Elfi)

"No, I'm just thinking of buying some on our way back"(Iori)

"Fumu\*.....?"(Elfi)

It should genuinely serve it purpose. However, I came up with a certain use of it, too. By properly make use of it, I should be able to do some interesting things with it.

Afterwhile, Karen has returned.



The complexion of Karen who has returned was bad. She looks pale as if she have received a considerable shock.

"Karen-sama, how have you done !?"(Jean)

".....Rayford.....been forfeit the rights over the labyrinth seal"(Karen)

In a trembling voice, Karen told what happen during the audience.

It seems that she was told directly by the emperor that she being dismissed regarding the matter of the labyrinth seal.

Instead of the Rayford family, Olivia was granted right to create the labyrinth seal.

".....'Essential stone'was also to be transferred to Olivia-san"(Karen)

"That's....."

Having lost her mother and that was followed by the disappearance of her

father, the sole remaining Karen have been stouthearted and acting diligently in order to protect the fief. However, it seems that this time it was harsher for her dealt with.

Her face is pale and her body is trembling.

"Karen-san are you alright.....?"

"Y-yes, I'm f-fine. Leaving that aside, let's get out of Imperial palace because I have already finished my business here....."(Karen)

Karen leaves the room with her unsteady steps. While we could not find any words to console her feeling, we just followed after her silently. Meanwhile, Jean who is a bit behind Karen has a difficult face.

"Oh my, is it not Karen-san?"

It is when we left and walk away from the room. From our behind, there was a voice calling out Karen name and that voice has a familiar feeling to it, too.

".....I guess you did come over, didn't you"

What stood there is a woman with a hair of the long madder red with a vertical winding roll. While wearing a red dress reminiscent of a rose. It's the figure to the extent that one would chase it with their eyes unintentionally if they pass each other in streets.

With her an appearance in her mid-twenty that would have one's breath taken away just by looking at her.

"....."

Olivia Elieresire.

The appearance of a betrayer who I saw for the first time in these thirty years that did not change at all from those days.

"Nice to meet you, and how about you feeling after being released from labyrinth seal decree?"(Olivia)

".....Olivia-san"(Karen)

"With this, both in name and reality the right over the labyrinth seals have become my task, aren't they? Well, as expected from his Majesty, right"(Olivia)



".....That's"(Karen)

"To leave the seal to the mixers like you, it would just increase the damages to the citizens of my territory"(Olivia)

Karen trembles shudderingly to the words of Olivia who triumphant.

"Well, as for the feudal lord that have irresponsibly disappeared, it's a natural result, aren't they? But where on earth your father went to?"(Olivia)

Olivia laughs as she exposing her malice while she did so.

She seems like a different person from the time when I spoke with her as Amatsu.

It made me wondering that if this was her true character after all.

"It may have been the punishment for not having to seal the labyrinth properly, aren't it! The mixed is irresponsible and isn't worthy to be entrusted with the most important role, right! Do not you think it is a natural result, Karen Rayford-san?"(Olivia)

"....."(Karen)

Turning her back to Olivia after being mock by such words, Karen has run away from this place. While Jean who was watching Olivia in silence is running after Karen.

"Oh dear, were she running away because what I've said was hitting the mark?"(Olivia)

Olivia laughs at the back of such Karen.

"....."

"Oh my, who might you be?"(Olivia)

For the first time, Olivia finally turned her eyes this way.

"Are you an adventurer? To walk along with such crude stranger, probably she doesn't have any decent attendants either, aren't she? Oh my, anyway it suitable for that dirty "mixed" after all"(Olivia)

While didn't notice my real identity, Olivia abuse us with such remark.

"Let's go, lori"(Elfi)

"Yeah"(Iori)

"Oh my, are you ignoring me?"(Olivia)

It is not worth listening to.

What should go out from that mouth is words of apologies and regrets while warped in pain on your last moments.

Thus, we turned our back and chased after Karen.

## Chapter 6: The Malicious Fangs

Then, before long we have caught up with Karen who ran away. She were waiting with Jean in front of the exit.

".....I am sorry I got disturbed"(Karen)

As I noticed, Karen still lowered her head with a pale face. Her red hair which tied with string is swaying as it is.

"It's okay, please don't worry about it"(Iori)

"Umu, I am rather thankful because I am hungry and wanted to go out of the castle soon after all"(Elfi)

"Eventhough, you ate a lot of bread a while ago"(Iori)

Rubbing off her red eyes, Karen smiles and laughing at our interaction. It is a pitiful smile that even I can understand that she pretend to be tough.

"Elfi-san stomach seems to be hungry and shall we return after taking light lunches in the Imperial capital?"(Karen)

I nodded to the stouthearted Karen and we left the Imperial castle after receiving our weapons and luggage.



Two hours later.

We left the Imperial capital after we having lunch and purchased things that seemed useful. The large castle gate is getting fades away as our distance gets further away.

"Elfi, it's about Olivia.....did you notice something?"(Iori)

"Of course I did. She seems a bit cunning but that doesn't seem to be good enough, though"(Elfi)

I guess this fellow would have noticed it, won't she?

"With a series of events and after listened to your story. I can predict it even if I do not like it. Moreover, I could get information even in a conversation with that woman"(Elfi)

"Then, afterwards, we just need to get some evidence, huh"(Iori)

We could march into the mansion of that fellow directly, but before that, we need to thwart off our sole concern after all. When I have done with that, it's possible for me to do whatever I like later on.

"....."(Iori)

After a conversation with Elfi, I turn my eyes to Karen. She seems to have calmed down somewhat as time passed.

Judging from her appearance, Karen has just become twenty herself. Still, it would be painful she must keep calm from that. Being called over to the Imperial capital in acting present head of her house albeit having been dismissed from the important role that has been granted up till then.

As if she notice the gaze, Karen opened her mouth while looking down.

"Although I just made a request, I have only shown you an unsightly sight, haven't I....."(Karen)

"You don't have to worry about it as for this fellow is always unsightl"(Iori)

"That's incomprehensible Iori!"(Elfi)

She smiles just only for a moment before Karen the shadow cast over expression once more. And while she having such expression which seems to be sneering at herself, I continue my words.

"Please do not take the words of Olivia Elieresire seriously"(Iori)

"Eh.....?"(Karen)

A surprise expression appears her face that leaves a feature of Gouache itself.

"Gouache.....Gouache-san is not irresponsible. He was a kind person who can not leave people in trouble, although he is not good at fighting"(Iori)

".....Iori-san"(Karen)

"There is no reason to be scorn badly by that woman and it was unnecessary for you to concern yourself with what she have said"(Iori)

A woman who thinks only to use people and only to make food out of them have no right to disrespects Gouache.

"So Karen, you shouldn't worry about it and please wait and think only about

your territory. Because we will solve this case as requested"(Iori)

Karen is looking at me with her round red pupil.  
After a few seconds pause, she beat her cheeks with her palm.

".....Got it. I will do my best, for now, "(Karen)

Karen who regained her complexion boldly nodded.  
Same as Gouache, this person is strong.

However———

".....No"(Iori)

I shook my head so that I could not think about it.



Then it is several hours later.

We have returned to Rayford territory. The sun has completely gone and the chirp insects could be heard from outside.

After dinner, Karen went to her room to organise the documents. Afterwards I and Elfi organised our luggage in our room before exchanging our opinions while endeavouring reading the books in Gouache library. There was no information that I could found, but there were many books about the hero “Amatsu”.

What was Gouache doing since I was gone?

"Isn't it dark?"

While reading a book, an employee has brought a magic item that produced a light. At that moment, I've recall something that bothering my mind.

"Around here, isn't there a Lahm village? What happens to it now?"(Iori)

It is one of the villages which have received a favour from me when I came to the empire. However, I have no intention to go there, I just concerned what happened to it. After that, the servant had gloomy look on his face.

"It has been destroyed by the Mazoku's for nearly three decades ago"  
"———, is.....that so"(Iori)

"Everyone was murdered cruelly on the spot.....master have grieved over it, too"

"Then....."(Iori)

I speak of some names of the village which have received a favour from me. Every time the servant shook his head, he said that it was destroyed by the Mazoku's.

".....I see"(Iori)

The servant looked awkward and left the room. Then, it becomes only Elfi and me again to remain in the dusty study.

".....Are you okay, Iori?"(Elfi)

"Don't mind it, It's a story about when I was drowned and held a superficial ideal, after all"(Iori)

"You being drowned.....?"(Elfi)

"Yeah, that's right"(Iori)

A lot of villages such as Lahm village could be found. There were many people who suffered from the war and were suffering. I had longed for Lucifina who was fighting while sacrificing her own body forsake of those people.

"I was being completely infatuated by Lucifina who was doing that kind of "acting" as I exclaiming with confidence that I did everything forsake of helping others and for a peace.....So it's about time for we to return to our room, isn't it?"(Iori)

It is not a pleasant feeling but it's not something that needs to be bothered with right now. Because the revenge is more important to me right now, so, I can not afford to be distracted.

As it is I was about brought to an end to our conversations and it when I was going to stand up.

"——Is that really the truth?"(Elfi)

My body stiffened as Elfi's line of sight were turned straight on me.

".....That's right. I have said that I just became a hero just because I was influenced by my friends"(Iori)

Dragged by the flow of lives, dragged into a fight and dragged to embraced an ideal.

I was just being dragged by the flows. Therefore, I swore to myself, not to be swept by the flow no more.

I shall accomplish my revenge by all means.

".....Is that's so?"(Elfi)

While showing a reaction that seems to be have caught on something, Elfi stood up, too. Then, she *PanPan* slap to remove the dust from her clothes

"....."

We turned off the lights and went outside the room.



".....Please forgive me"(Jean)

Jean stood in front of the room and he was lowering his head as soon as we met with each other.

"What did you apologies for.....?"(Iori)

"I have only shown discourtesy since the time when we have been saved from those demonic being in the forest back then"(Jean)

.....This is so sudden.

Toward us who were surprised, Jean said.

"Olivia Elieresire is dangerous"(Jean)

She even said something with attention to harassing Gouache all the time before she occupied the labyrinth. To shed such unfavourable criticism and try to bribe the servants.

"Back then, she also appeared before me and told me to obey her"(Jean)

Since that incidents, Jean was wary of everyone who tries to approached Karen. Because he thought they might be hired by Olivia. Since Gouache has become missing, Jean was more keen on protecting Karen. Therefore, that is why he seems to be strongly wary of us, too.

That I might be trying to take something from the Rayford family by selling sell a favour to her.

"Why did you tell all of this to us?"(Iori)

"After hearing those words that you said to Karen-sama in the carriage.....it

somehow, it make me to thought that I could trust you"(Jean)

Lowering his head, Jean has begged us, Master and Karen-sama are very kind people. I want you to save those two somehow.

"Please leave it to us"(Elfi)

I nod and consent to that.

It goes without saying.

"Thank you very much.....!"(Jean)

"So, did you come here for something?"(Iori)

As I pointed that out, Jean cleared his throat as he recalls it out.

"Karen-sama calls out both of you because she want to explain everything"(Jean)

"Explaining?"(Elfi)

While Jean told it as having made up his mind, Elfi tilted her head in response.

"——About the day when master disappeared"(Jean)



I received a brief explanation on the day when the commission was made. However, it is better to have more information.

We were guided by Jean and went to the room where Karen was. It is a large room where dinner was taken.

"Please pardon me for having called out for both of you"(Karen)

After done guiding us, Jean went out of the room. Then Karen offered us to have a sit.

"It was a detailed situation about the time when Gouache disappeared, right?"(Iori)

"Yes"(Karen)

Karen told about the situation of those days once more.

Gouache went to check a state of the barrier before he just disappeared as it is. At that time, he seemed to take several servants with him, but it is said that nobody has noticed that gouache has disappeared. There's also an opinion that



he might have gone into the labyrinth, too. However, one's can not enter the labyrinth unless by dissolving barrier first. There was no trace of the barrier of the labyrinth being dissolved nowhere.

The population of the fief doesn't get close to the labyrinth where a barrier being set, either. It seems that there were no one have saw the figure of Gouache, too.

"Gouache-san is to be somewhere which isn't the labyrinth, shouldn't he"  
(Iori)

".....I searched all over the territory, but I could not find him anywhere"(Karen)

Where should Gouache have been?  
On earth how did you disappear?  
Is there a mystery like this?

"The employee who was there at that time,———"(Karen)

Then, *Buchin* snap.  
The room light went off abruptly. Thus, the room that had been illuminated so far is covered in darkness abruptly.

".....Is it out of magical power?"(Karen)

When Karen murmurs and at the same time she rises from her seat.

"——Elfii"(Iori)  
"Got it!"(Elfi)

Then simultaneously both I and Elfi intercepted those presences which aiming at Karen. When I throw a knife that I kept in my bosom, it felt like the blade is pierced into some flesh. At the same time, Elfi fired her demon eyes in a different direction.

'———'

Something that being struck by the Demon eyes that seem to run out of the strength could be heard falls into the ground. As I also throw my knife continuously to seal the opponent's movement.

"What's happening!?"(Jean)

Then during those several seconds gap, Jean has barged into the room. He

was holding a light in his hand and had the room which covered by darkness being lighted up by it.

".....Hii"(Jean)

Inside the room, there are two serpents is being scattered about. There's a mottled pattern floated on its purple skin and it is a demonic being that can easily swallow a person.

"....."Acid hammer large serpent", huh?"(Iori)

The acid hammer serpent is a dangerous demonic being which spits out the gastric juice that can even melt the iron. It did inhabit in the empire, but it doesn't exist in this vicinity.

"Th-that was dangerous..... On earth, how did such demonic being....."(Karen)

Karen is weak on her knees while her face turns blue.  
Jean had a similar look, too.

".....So, it has already been decided, isn't it Iori"(Elfi)

"Indeed"(Iori)

Although in the beginning it just a mere expectation but it became clear with this.

—— Olivia Elieresire can manipulate the demonic beings.

And one more thing.

In this mansion, there is a person who is connected with Olivia.

## Chapter 7: For Karen-sama Sake

As soon as the demonic beings raid incident, a barrier was built around the house by Karen. With that, the demonic beings wouldn't easily intrude inside the mansion with the barrier erected, Karen also can detect the existence of demonic beings immediately if there's any surprise attack. For the time being, they decided to return to their respective rooms while staying vigilant.

The mansion was wrapped in silence after the inhabitants of the mansion went asleep. However, there was a silhouette which opened the door of the entranceway while erasing all traces as it got out of the mansion.

It was a man who wore a clean butler clothes which have no trace of wrinkles on it. Moreover, his yellow hair is being combed neatly to the degree where's there's no dishevelled could be seen. That man is no other than the servant of the Rayford family – Jean Belmondo.

With a soundless footstep that he mastered while serving as an attendant, Jean quietly leaves the mansion completely unnoticeable. As for why did he leave the mansion at the midnight? Because it entirely “For sake of protecting Karen-sama”

Almost a decade ago, Jean worked as an attendant in a village which wasn't under Rayford territories. Although the master of the mansion was slightly arrogant, the payment was good and he has no trouble with his life. He spent his peaceful daily life that can be described as if in a painting itself continued with his family, friends and his lover peacefully.

But it collapsed suddenly one day.

The village where Jean lived was destroyed by the raid of the Maou forces. Only Jean alone has barely survived while he lost everything including his family, friends, lover, master, house and even his property.

In such state where Jean has nowhere to go and was about to waited for his pitiful death to come, it was Gouache Rayford who was the one who has rescue him. Gouache told Jean, who does not have a place to live or work, to take advantage of his past experience with his work before to work and live in his

mansion.

This is because he got picked up by Gouache he was able to live as he was now.

From that time, Jean has made up his mind. That, he would use his body for sake of Rayford House.

Unfortunately, right now only Karen remains in the mansion due to the barrier disaster incidents. Neither Gouache which picked oneself up nor the madame who has treated him kindly left. Therefore, Jean felt it was his responsibility to protect and ensure the safety of Karen.

For he who don't know which end is up, but he has a firm believe that there is no doubt that Olivia Elieresire was involved in this uproar. That "that woman should have been involved with the demonic beings surprise attack today". Although he is incapable, he will use everything he has'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'

For that very reason, Jean was walking leaving the mansion.

There is a small forest where a person rarely approaches on the outskirts of the Rayford territory and there exist a natural cave in the depths of the forest, where the "metastasis formation" is stretched. By using that, it is possible to leap over to Olivia's residence in a blink of an eye.

(.....? Why did I know such a thing?)

Suddenly Jean wondered why did he knew about it. Originally it is information that he shouldn't even know how, too.

(No, it's just not possible)

As he shakes his head as he tries to shake off his doubts to steel himself that doesn't matter right now because there's something more important than that. "For sake of protecting Karen-sama", I must head to Olivia's residence as soon as possible.

(For sake of protecting Karen-sama, I must report the situation of the mansion to Olivia)

That the raid of demonic being has failed.

That Karen is still alive.

That those adventurers pair are really capable.

I have to report it to Olivia.

'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'

As the tree *SawaSawa* rustling and shakes. The moon was hiding behind the clouds which covering the sky. However, Jean is walking in the forest has no hesitation because this is not the first time that he has used the cave in this way and he has been using the metastasis formation for several times already in order to head for Olivia.

Then it was when Jean has arrived in front of the cave in the back of the forest.

".....As I expected, huh"(Unknown)

".....!?"(Jean)

Unexpectedly, a man voice could be heard suddenly from his back. Thus, he turns around in a hurry, but he cannot find the owner of the voice.

There's only darkness is spreading in all directions.

It's a bad situation.

'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'he should not be seen by anyone.

".....Haa"(Unkown)

With a sigh, then suddenly a person silhouette has appeared into his view. It was as if the silhouette which being covered by darkness until then have abruptly appeared before him.

"You are.....Iori-san? Why are you here?"(Jean)

".....That is my line"(Iori)

It was Amatsuki Iori who should have fallen asleep in the mansion who have appeared from the darkness. With his raven-black hair and jet black coat that could be mistaken as the shades of night itself has appeared before him. Youths still remain in his appearance, but the air that he releases is definitely not that of a child.

His whole body trembles instinctively as he edges back.

"Jean-san, where are you heading to?"(Iori)

"Where.....? aren't it already been decided ————Eh? Where am I heading to?"(Jean)

At the moment just before he tried to speak, suddenly his thought has dispersed.

It was quite strange.

It seems like his memories went hazy.

"That aside, why are you here? If anything happens to Karen-sama, what would you do?"(Jean)

Jean throws up a sigh and steps up to Iori.

"For the time being, shall we return to mansion?"(Jean)

"Don't you need to enter in the cave?"(Iori)

"———Cave? What is the matter with that?"(Jean)

Jean looks puzzled as he can not figure out what Iori is talking about.

"First of all"(Jean)

'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'(Jean)

"——Please die"(Jean)

Toward the jet black youth, Jean attempt to stab him with the knife that he kept in his pocket. Since the existence of the cave has been exposed, I have to kill the witness'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'

'For sake of protecting Karen-sama' It must not expose that I'm connected with Olivia. It must not expose to no one, I must tell Olivia regarding what had happened at the mansion'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'

"Why do you do something like this?"(Iori)

Iori asks such a thing while dodging a knife lightly.

'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'and followed after that is.

"It have been decided, haven't it"(Jean)

'I swing down a knife for sake of protecting Karen-sama.  
to avoid the pursuer'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'(Jean)

"It's'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'"(Jean)

That right, because I have decided to use this body of mine for the sake of Rayford house'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'I have to immediately kill the man in front of me'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'

(.....? Why it had to be tied with protecting Karen-sama?)

Then when he had a doubt, his thoughts was switch to 'For sake of protecting Karen-sama' again. I have to kill Iori with this knife immedietely 'For sake of protecting Karen-sama'

[illegible]

".....So this is the" brainwash""(lori)

While he calmly said that, yet there's rage well up in his tone. Immediately after that, a dull shock ran over on the back of Jean head.

".....Gah!?"(Jean)

Sparks scatter in his mind while his thoughts being scattered again. Jean thought was cut off, just like a magic item that has lost its magical power.



When I got back to the mansion with the unconscious Jean, Elfi and Karen were waiting.

"It seems like I did not need to ask-na"(Elfi)

"Jean.....!"(Karen)

"He all right, he just loses his consciousness"(Iori)

Karen stroked her chest in relief after I told her that he was safe. For the time

being, Jean is being restricted and placed under house arrest in the room. It for caution's sake because we do not know whether the brainwash was completely removed.

"Jean-san was headed to cave in the back of the forest and I think that it probably linked to the mansion of Olivia because there was metastasis formation in there"(Iori)

In this case, such prediction could be made in the first place if you take the consideration that woman could use the "brainwash magic".

First, unnatural coordination between those mud bears and the raid timing of those acid serpents. Moreover, those surprise attack of the Mazoku which had occurred in the territory.

It is a surprise attack that it is convenient for Olivia but inconvenient for Karen (circumstances). If I considering all these things, apparently that woman seems to be able to manipulate the demonic beings.

And when I met Olivia at the Imperial Palace, that woman has said 'Are you an adventurer?' albeit she just has seen both Elfi and me for the first time. Even though we have dressed in formal attire which we borrowed from Karen in order for us to enter the Imperial Palace. Obviously, it was strange for that Olivia was able to judge us as an adventurer just from the first sight.

That woman should have grasped our information by some kind of methods. And that some kind of methods is by some betrayer who was in the same mansion that under her "brainwash magic" influence, that is my conclusion is. If you think so, it also leads to the disappearance of Gouache. It was not noticed that he had disappeared, but it is highly likely that what had happened to him has been "forgotten".

Because it was no more than expectation, in the end, there's should others different possibility being considered too. There is no mistake that it would be the right assumption as long as I caught the suspicious state of Jean. Currently, for precaution sake, the servants other than Jean have also being confined in the barrier in their own rooms.

Elfi knew it without needing me to explaining it to her. As expected, it would be such place after all.



As for Karen, I told her not to get shocked too much.  
Still, Karen was shedding tears and at the same time, she was trembling with anger.

"From now on, we will march into the Olivia mansion. At that moment, I will obtain this incident evidence and the whereabouts of Gouache-san. Therefore Karen, please wait in the mansion"(Iori)

".....I refuse"(Karen)

Karen shook her head in disapproval and said.

"Please bring me there, too"(Karen)

".....That is"(Iori)

"I am aware that I would become no more than a drag. But.....I want to see it with my own eyes regarding this incident as the representative of Rayford house myself"(Karen)

My dead mother and father along with the missing populations.  
Karen told that she took responsibility for having to see what happened herself.

Karen has lowered her head while pleading.  
Listen to this story— —I dare to say, she was prepared for this.  
I guess, she has already taken consideration of the outcome.

That it's likely that.  
Gouache is already.

".....I understand. But there is a condition"(Iori)

The condition is to obey the instructions of me and Elfi. I can not imagine what that woman will do after being cornered. It was unacceptable development for Karen being taken as a hostage.

Besides, I will kill Olivia.  
In order to protect ourselves with appropriate things, by considering that woman would wield a sword.

".....Well then, shall we go? To that woman's place"(Iori)

## Chapter 8: The Rotten Arrogance

The Eliesteel territory.

It's located near the labyrinth and it's a territory that adjacent to the Rayford territory which had the duty of sealing it. It's a land that was shunned from the imperial aristocrats and has the risk of being raided by the demonic beings that might overflow from the labyrinth.

The name of the feudal lord is Olivia Elieresire. Who was an excellent magician who gained the territory and the status of aristocratic from the emperor, after acknowledging her merit in her role in repelling the Maou forces that have attacked the Empire. With some administrations abilities, she able to manages her territory and avoid the conspicuous dissatisfaction from the population of her fief.

It is the big mansion in the depths of the territory and the mansion where she was born. Although the servants are quite a few in number, the cleaning is being done thoroughly.

Both of the design on the exterior and the interior of the mansion was being gorgeous crafted by the craftsmen.

Inside the room of Olivia, there's a door that being sealed and concealed. On the other side of the door, there's a basement which nobody than she herself was aware the existence of such place in the mansion.

There's a person inside the basement which illuminated gleams by the lamp and that very person was no other than Olivia Elieresire. Contrary to her real age, her appearance is a woman in her twenties. She tempers her body that remarkably slows its ageing in order to keep her youthful appearance. As a result, Olivia practically hasn't aged at all.

"Well then.....It's about time for a report that mixed have died comes, isn't it?"(Olivia)

Sitting on a chair, Olivia muttering like that with the experiment report on her hand. It was the result and information regarding the instruction that related to the guideline to the surprise attack of the demonic beings that she gave to the

attendant of the Rayford family.

A strong demonic being which is to the extent even the A rank adventurer would fall victim to it. Around this time “that” girls should have died and dissolve without leaving any bones.

"Well that man has fulfilled his duty, should I feed that man to the demonic being as well?"(Olivia)

'For sake of Karen-sama and for sake of Rayford'

The one who has uttered such a silly thing was the attendant name Jean who have defied her.

For her, a man who associates himself with the mixed one is not worth living. It makes her feel nauseated just from filth which rubs on him from associating with those mixed.

It's disgusting.

The mixed one's, the demi-humans and the Mazoku itself is unpleasant existence for her. She wishes the every single one of them should extinct completely.

".....So you have finally arrived?"(Olivia)

The metastasis formation that being set up in the basement is reacting. She wonders if Jean has arrived for the report. Although he has been brainwashed and unable to defy Olivia, but for the caution's sake the metastasis formation is been set up inside the prison. Because after she has heard the report through the prison, that have been decided that she will dispose of him as the demonic being food afterwards.

She put away the report which she held and it was the time when Olivia stood up from her chair. There was the big explosion that shook the mansion has occurred.

"What's was that!?"(Olivia)

The explosion occurred in the prison where the metastasis formation is placed. At the same time when Olivia stiffened uttered “What on earth?”

"——Sorry for intrusion-zo"(Iori)

The door which leads to the prison was kicked vigorously. Then, what entered into the sight of Olivia who looked at the unexpected visitor is a black-haired boy who wore a jet-black coat. An A rank adventurer who was informed by Jean in his report.

From behind him, there are two more shadows appeared. A girl with silver hair and gold eyes that drifting out an intense magical power.

And,

".....Oh dear, what we have here"(Olivia)

A red-haired woman—— The figure of Rayford house present head, Karen Rayford.



We teleported in the prison after we used the metastasis formation which was spread inside the cave. It's not like a trap because there's no some kind of special magic being placed inside the prison. I guess that was transit placed into prison for just in case that Jean might be attacking her.

With Elfi's【Demon Eyes・Complete Destruction Explosion】, we manage to get out by destroying the prison without any difficulty. It seems to be a basement by judging from the window and the magically powered light which is being installed here. Advancing towards the directions where the presence of a person, I've kicked the door which blocked our path.

And what stand beyond the door, is the figure of Olivia Eliesire.

".....Oh dear, what we have here"(Olivia)

As her dumbfounded expression turns into those of arrogance and composure kind of attitudes.

"What on earth are you thinking? To creep in someone else mansion without permission. As expected of the mixed ones. By no means, I never thought that they would be lacking an etiquette, too"(Olivia)

".....Please do not play around, I already know what you have done"(Karen)

"What I have done? I don't understand what you've said at all"(Olivia)

As she shed the word of insult, Karen demands an explanation from her.

However, Olivia has been inclined her head to play fools.

"——Brainwash magic. Don't try to say that you didn't know.....! I already know that you are manipulating demonic beings and people and all your evil deed!"(Karen)

"My oh my"(Olivia)

While putting her hands on her cheeks, Olivia leaked a voice of admiration while showing mockery toward Karen. Then she averted her eyes from Karen and looking to our directions.

"Anyway for the likes of such vulgar mercenary to.....it's really unexpected. After all, I do not think it would be revealed by that mixed and it should be you guys was the one who did it, isn't it?"(Olivia)

"....."

"I will give you my compliment"(Olivia)

Olivia who have acknowledged her own crime but there is no impatience could be seen in her expression. She doesn't feel like being cornered at all and I wonder if she has some kind of trump cards on her hands.

".....Olivia-san, What happened to my father.....?"(Karen)

Karen's question Olivia with trembling voice. On the other hand, with "Ah" in a mild voice as if just remembered it.

"——already dead long time ago"(Olivia)

".....!?"(Karen)

"Already completely eaten to his bone by the demonic beings"(Olivia)

".....Tha-thats"(Karen)

Hearing that, Karen collapsed feebly.

The survival of the Gouache was hopeless. It already has crossed my mind that the likelihood of him being alive was low, too.

"Gouache....."(Iori)

.....Shit,

By all means, why did such gentle guy like him has to be killed.

"He goes to the labyrinth with several of his attendants before being attacked

by the demonic beings. However, I bought him over to my mansion because I considered that he could be used in various ways. Unfortunately, in the end, his worth is no more or less than being the food for the demonic beings after all" (Olivia)

She said it in harsh voice including a joyful look could be seen on her face. At that time, she probably has manipulated those servants including Jean who was accompanying Gouache, I guess they were the one who sent him to her mansion.

"Though, I was thinking about to brainwash and intended to make good use of him.....It was something out of my expectation that he was able to undo the brainwash magic by himself. The social standing of that mixed is really annoying"(Olivia)

He couldn't be made a puppet. Therefore, Olivia tells proudly that she had turned him into the demonic beings food.

Karen was sobbing and trembling.

".....what about the missing population of the fief"(Elfi)

"Oh, most of them have been turned into the demonic beings meal the same way as him too"(Olivia)

She answered Elfi question as if it was something obvious to say.

Manipulated the demonic beings to caused damages to her and the Rayford territory. Then lay the blame on the barrier of the Rayford House and make justification the control over the right over the labyrinth. In the process, kidnapping a lot of population of the fief into this basement.

"I had the demonic beings eat them after using them in the brainwashing experiment. More than that, all those trash should be thankful because I have made good use of them"(Olivia)

"Why.....How could you did such"(Karen)

"It's to bring about results"(Olivia)

Olivia said those words in a bright tone while spreading both of her hands like to dance with anticipation.

"As what that Mr. adventure over there have said, although the brainwash

magic is appointed art of taboo—by casting that very art of taboo on the demonic beings and accomplished the labyrinth subjugation—What do you think will happen next?"(Olivia)

Showed contempt over the Rayford House, control over the labyrinth and captured the demonic beings that come out of it. And after that subjugate the labyrinth behind-the-scenes, thus Olivia saying all those words as if she was singing.

"I have been receiving unjustifiable evaluation because of some annoying brave from the country which fawning over him. Therefore I will give a brilliant result called the labyrinth subjugation and receive proper evaluation this time" (Olivia)

"Just for sake of that.....you have sacrificed.....my dear father and the people of my territory!?"(Karen)

"That's right, if this experiment succeeds, the humans can obtain the power that can overthrow the Maou forces and all of this is a necessary sacrifice for that"(Olivia)

In addition, Olivia said.

"Because in this way the filthy sub-humans and mixed like you can be useful for the empire or rather should you be thankful for it, no? Because the mixed and the sub-human should obediently become foods for humans, shouldn't they?"(Olivia)

This woman has not changed from thirty years ago. Make those selfish theories and using others for her own conveniences. Even if she saw the peoples who suffer caused by it, she would just ridicule them as some necessary sacrifice.

".....Disgusting"(Olivia)

"I agree because we should be the one that felt disgusted"(Iori)

"After all I have considered it won't be understood by crazy people who has sided with that mixed after all"(Olivia)

Ahh, she really has got rotten to her core after all.

"So? That you stylishly come over by having to smash through my door, are all of that just to hear my stories? Are you satisfied?"(Olivia)

".....tsu"(Karen)

Karen stands up slowly.

Shedding her tears as it is, she trembling grasping her fist while scowling at Olivia.

".....Crime"(Karen)

"Yes?"(Olivia)

"Please compensate for your crime"(Karen)

It was not only Olivia who have been surprised at the words that went out of Karen's mouth.

".....Karen-san"(Iori)

I thought that she might be going to kill Olivia out of revenge after being consumed by hatred. But Karen was different.

"You have done something unacceptable, So.....please compensated for crime that you have done"(Karen)

"HA, haha, AhahaHaha!! You truly an idiot, aren't you!"(Olivia)

Olivia sneered at Karen while holding her belly.

"Compensate for my sin? Wasn't what I did was something useful for the Empire? What on earth are you saying that I was guilty just because I'm making a good use of livestock?"(Olivia)

—— That's right.

"Gosh, what a jokes that both father and daughter is completely an idiot! AH, that right! I will tell you the situation of your father when he died!"(Olivia)

——My presumption was hitting the mark.

"Since brainwash magic does not work on him, I decided to feed him to the demonic beings because to just killing him would be boring, wasn't it?

T.H.E.R.E.F.O.R.E, I let the flesh-eating demonic beings to eat up his flesh bi~iit by bit"(Olivia)

——I thought that she just a mere low-life woman.

"At the beginning he might pretend to be tough and not letting out any scream, but in less than half a day he unsightly have been crying out



indefinitely'Help me'I do not want to die', you see. In the middle of it, he shouts out the names of his wife and yours like a foolish one. And you know what, I was laughing too hard too after I can't bear listening to'Karen~, Karen~'"(Olivia)

——I finally understood.

"T.H.E.R.E.U.P.O.N, it gradually turns into'Please Kill Me'in the end. It was a masterpiece! But because he was saying that'I do not want to die'in the beginning. So, this gentle me tries to keep him alive a little bit longer by slowing down the pace of the flesh-eating demonic beings"(Olivia)

——This fellow.

"Then, after having proooooooperly~ enjoying it to my heart content, that man has disappeared from this world without leaving any bones. Your father was died while being useful. Therefore, you can be proud of it Karen-san!"(Olivia)

——she has rotted to the core of her very bone.

"Well, just to inform you, it was me is the one that made those demonic beings attacking that mother of yours. She died with a foolish face while trying to protecting the population of the fief.

But in the end, those population of the fief that she trying to protect was being properly served as the demonic beings food, too. Therefore, unlike your father your mother was completely useless, aren't she?"(Olivia)

"——Just, shut your trap!!!!"(Karen)

I feel nauseated.

I can not think the one who stood before me as human anymore.

It's disgusting.

It is not a story that someone could stand to listen to. In the end, it's already useless. This bastard shouldn't be keep alive anymore.

"Fumu. That story, whom did you want to tell to?"(Elfi)

It was Elfi voice.

When I look back, Karen was being held by Elfi's arm. She seems already has lost her consciousness.

"If it was to this girl, it would be troubling if those babbling aiming toward the

other party who doesn't hear it. It's really laughable, though"(Elfi)

It seems that Elfi has made Karen lost her consciousness.

You did well.

Such talk shouldn't listen to.

".....Oh my, that's regrettable. There was a story that I wanted her to hear a little more, though"(Olivia)

".....Shut up"(Iori)

"I don't know what you're angry about. Well, I felt quite sleepy, too. Then, I will end this as soon as possible"(Olivia)

Then, Olivia snapped her fingers.

The sounds that the door opens are continuously and countless of the footstep is approaching.

"Do you expect that you can return back alive?"(Olivia)

Numerous demonic beings including "Mud Bear" and "Acid Hammer Serpent" has appeared to protect Olivia. And fall behind them, a huge specimen has appears behind Olivia.

It was the dragon kind. What more, the muscles of that dragon were swollen to an extraordinary level as they could be seen even from the scales that covered its body. Neck, shoulder, back, abdomen, the existence with an innumerable mouth, arms and eyes all over——Such an ugly monster.

"After repeated research, it is a demonic being that made out from the labyrinth subjugation——It is a "synthetic dragon". With a tough body and breath of fire that can burn everything. It can slaughter the A ranked adventurers easily and it is my strongest trump card which I'm proud of"(Olivia)

Along with the roar of the synthetic dragon, it's arm which grew from its whole body has convulsions fearfully followed with its innumerable eyeballs that turn here all at once.

.....It is an ugly monster suitable for a rotten woman.

"Elfi, take care of Karen"(Iori)

".....What are you intended to do?"(Elfi)

"It has been decided"(Iori)

I pull out my jade longsword.

"——Drop in hell"(Iori)

## Chapter 9: Because You Have Taken Advantage of People

"I will feed e~very single one of you to the demonic beings. So, please don't try to run away, okay?"(Olivia)

The barrier has been set up throughout the room at the same time as Olivia snapped her fingers. The section of the door that had been broken through is also covered with the barrier and the passage to the transition point has been blocked as well.

"Now then, it's meal time"(Olivia)

Olivia issued an order simultaneously while having cut off our way of retreat. More than one demonic being under the command of that woman began to move at the same time without raising groaning voices.

As usual, she has the upper hand.

However——it would advantageous only in a wide space.

In the basement where the four sides are covered with walls, their movement is restricted. Moreover, with such large body frame of the demonic beings, no matter how they good they cooperating with each other, they have no choice but to go straight toward us in this space.

"I have no business with you guys"(Iori)

As I throw the magic stone at the feet of the demonic beings. The demonic beings did not bother to get away from the magic stones that dropped with a dry sound. Because they aren't capable of thinking anything else as they only think to kill their prey accordingly to Olivia's instructions.

So if it were normal demonic beings they would easily avoid those attacks.

"——"Magic Destruction • Magic Break"(Iori)

The magic stone has exploded and swallowed the incoming demonic beings in the explosion flames. But, thanks to Olivia's barrier, the floor and ceiling have not collapsed due to the explosion.

"W-wha-What.....!?"(Olivia)

Ignoring Olivia whose lose her composure cause by a sudden explosion, I thrust myself into the crowds of demonic beings.

""Acceleration Accelerator""(Iori)

The majority of the demonic beings which throw themselves at me have lost their feet caused by the explosion. Effortlessly, I have lifted my body to cope with the incoming demonic beings.

"You're in the way"(Iori)

I dodge their attack which has become dull due to the damages they receive on they body before I cut off their neck as it is. Even if they don't feel the pain, they should cease to move after their head being separated from their body.

The demonic being which weakened by the explosion also doesn't care about their injured comrades as they keep to plunge themselves earnestly. Thus, I cut them one by one with my jade longsword and as for their perfect cooperation and coordinations, it will be a threat if it were in a spacious forest, but in this narrow space, they just going to obstruct each other movement.

It was when I stepped over the decapitated demonic beings and was about to turn to the next one.

"\_\_\_\_\_"

A huge arm fell abruptly in the spot where I was until a while ago at the same time when I pull back. In the meanwhile, the demonic beings that should be there are creating squashed sounds as they have become just a mere stain that dyed the basement.

"....."

It was a single blow from the synthetic dragon "Chimera Dragon" which was waiting in the back. The figure of the synthetic dragon's is advancing while trampling over the demonic beings.

"I see, I see. I admit that an A rank adventurer is certainly just not for show, do they? I admit it because those demonic beings which I sent to that mansion has been repulsed, too"(Olivia)

A shrill cry rises from the oral cavity where teeth-like objects are lined up—on the vertical line which runs all over the body of the synthetic dragon. As its rolling eyeball creates a damp sound that followed by all its arms which sticking out from all over being simultaneously directed toward my directions.

"You are just right thing to become the test subject for this synthetic dragon  
"The Chimera Dragon""(Olivia)

A countless arm rushes at me like an elastic rubber, Thus, I've cut it down with the jade longsword as soon as it draws closer while simultaneously performing footwork to avoid it. But I won't be able to cope with this numbers forever and I have no choice but to pull back.

It's really troublesome.

"AhaHaHa! Did you even think that a tiny adventurer like you can knock down this synthesised dragon? Hah??"(Olivia)

I could hear some harsh ridicule from the back of the gigantic body. So, she seems to have a lot of confidence in this dragon, isn't she?

"But, you shouldn't worry about it? Because this is the synthetic dragon that I created to defeat the Demon Lord after all"(Olivia)

The oral cavity in the whole body of the synthetic dragon began to "PokuPoku" opening and shutting. As the magical power from its surroundings is being sucked up by those oral cavities before gathered at its head. Then, its mouth opened as it about to ward it off as a sphere of flame that created from the magical power.

"Well then, now regret being employed by that filthy mixed, then now die unsightly?"(Olivia)

A breath was fired by the synthetic dragon and its a single blow of hellfire which contains a lot of magical powers. Well, it certainly would be a blow that equals to the breath of the flame dragon indeed.

"——So?"(Iori)

It just to the extent where nothing more to say about it.

Countering it, I decrease its power first with "Magic Break Suppression II ·

Ataraxia". Of course, that alone won't be enough to suppress it.

——But that is sufficient enough.

I start to supply the magical power on the 'Crimson Armor' or the magic clothes which I wore in my body.

From jet black——Crimson red is spreading like the ripple on the water starting from the top. Normally it was purely jet black, but the pattern of disastrous conflagration is carved by incorporating the magical power on it.

—— Because by such reason, it's known as the 'Crimson Armor'

With that, I receive the breath which could melt the iron directly. The fired red flame that has entirely covered my sight———. However, the flame was completely nullified by the 'Crimson Armor'.

In the flame such as the fire from Hell, I run for the synthetic dragon. By releasing its breath attack, its huge figure is being left defenceless.

So, I thrust the magic stone into the inside of the oral cavity which was widely opened to suck the surrounding magical power. With that, the lower abdomen of the synthetic dragon was blown off entirely by the Magic Break.

"HAh!? Wha-what?" (Olivia)

The upper body of the synthetic dragon whose greatly damaged has fallen on the ground. Nonetheless, such ugly monster is still trying to move.

"——Get lost!" (Iori)

I strike it down with the magic break once again. Following the lower abdomen, the upper body of the synthetic dragon smashed into pieces and scattered all over while spreading the putrid smell in the basement.

"Ah, eh?" (Olivia)

As for what remained there is only a lone defenceless Olivia.

Finally, you're within my reach.



"Huh.....eh? What.....? My, mine synthesis Dragon "Chimera Dragon" is, why?" (Olivia)

Olivia who turns her eyes to the mountain of flesh which scattered about.

But, there will no leeway for such confused woman.

"Well then, is this the end?"(Iori)

"*Gasp*....."(Olivia)

Olivia edges back in response.

It seems that it was the end for her main demonic being.

"I-I got it, I won't resist anymore!"(Olivia)

Raising both of her hands, Olivia takes a no resistance pose. Then, she came closer while floating flirty smile on her face.

"Ah~"(Olivia)

Then suddenly, Olivia has tripped while on its way here. She staggering before falling in this direction.

"———"

"Serve upon me!"(Olivia)

Olivia's arms are pressed against my forehead.

At the same time, the magic power has flowed in my head. I see, so this is the brainwash magic, huh.

"Hah.....Such a foolish man, aren't you?"(Olivia)

"What?"(Iori)

"Huh.....!?"(Olivia)

Olivia opened her eyes wide in shock as she sprang back while I wipe off the touched area with a cloth.

It's disgusting.

"W, why.....!? I surely had poured the magical power in!"(Olivia)

Regarding the mechanism behind the brainwash magic, I have already heard it from Olivia herself thirty years ago. The magical power is poured on the brain subject to change its mind. If it's the case, you need to concentrate the magical powers to resist it before it reaches the brain.

"So? Should we end this?"(Iori)



"Hi\*....."(Olivia) TN shrieking\*

When the same question was thrown, Olivia got a fearful expression for the first time. However, it quickly switches to an arrogant one.

"Hah.....! After capturing me, you will report it to the Emperor, won't you? Fine, do whatever you want. This experiment is necessary for the current empire. No matter how those filthy mixed clamouring over it, my experiments will going to be valued highly!!"(Olivia)

To hand her over to the Empire?

Certainly, as long as this woman can manipulate the demonic being, the empire will not immediately deal her. Aside from being renown, this is certainly an innovative skill.

However, it is a story.....if she being hand over after all.

"Be relieved, I will not do such a thing"(Iori)

".....Eh?"(Olivia)

A question floats on Olivia's face.

"No way, do you say that I will give you my skills? Do not be silly, This skill of mine is not something for such vulgar monkey like either of you could understand"(Olivia)

"No, it is different"(Iori)

"Well then, what on earth you going to do with me——"(Olivia)

She seems to misunderstood something. But, I will straighten it for her.

"You certainly do not think that you can get away all in one piece, aren't you?"(Iori)

Olivia has become bewildered after heard those words. It's an expression which showed that she doesn't know what I'm talking about.

"What do you mean with that....."(Olivia)

"What I'm telling you is, that I will kill you right here"(Iori)

She seems to have understood the meaning as I can see Olivia's face turned pale slightly.

"Ha.....HAH! For someone from other countries.....Moreover, with the position of mere adventurers to do something like that to this I the imperial aristocrat, do you think that it is permitted?"(Olivia)

"I do not need such permission"(Iori)

It's hilarious.

It makes me laugh.

"Olivia...Elieresire, look like you have not changed since thirty years ago, huh"  
(Iori)

"Thirty.....? What are you blathering on about.....?"(Olivia)

"Thirty years ago you have annihilated your troops with brainwash magic, didn't you"(Iori)

".....! How did you, that"(Olivia)

"And after that, you asked recommendation of "Hero Amatsu" so that brainwash magic to be acknowledged. But it was refused and as for the brainwash magic, it was designated as prohibited"(Iori)

I can see Olivia's expression turning pale.

"As for your retaliation over that you demand the dead body of Amatsu, you have betrayed "me""(Iori)

"Lies, it's a lie....."(Olivia)

I roll up my sleeve and expose my right arm to her. I showed Olivia the proof of the brave which engraved on the back of my hand.

"It's been thirty years since then, huh.

Olivia Elieresire"(Iori)

Olivia trembled with a pale expression as her feet were trembling while having some difficulty to breath like having hyperpnoea. She shaking her head repeatedly in denial as if unable to accept the reality. She sits helplessly on the ground as if she were not able to stand anymore.

"Neither Empire or aristocracy are related in this matter. This is my revenge for being betrayed. Do you understand? There is no need for someone permission"(Iori)

"Ah...ahh.....You should have died. It's a lie, this is a lies"(Olivia)

It seems that she finally understood her situation as she begins to retreat while dragging her bottom.

"It, not a lies"(Iori)

As I stepped with all my might and crushed her foot to avoid her from escaping. The dull sound of breaking bones was echoed in a basement.

"Eh.....Ah?"(Olivia)

Once in a while, Olivia screamed.

"Elfi, I will take care of this. So, you should bring Karen-san back to the mansion"(Iori)

"Got it, I will ask you later"(Elfi)

Elfi broke the barrier with her demon eyes and went out from the basement while holding Karen. Because I can not show the upcoming events to Karen.

It shouldn't be shown.

"Ahhh.....! Foot, my foot is.....ah!"(Olivia)

I turn my gaze below saw Olivia was crying in agony while restrained her crushed foot.

Of course, I do not want to end this.

I won't end this with such a thing, you know.

"Well then, shall I begin the revenge?"(Iori)



Olivia lifts her hand as she seems to tries to do something. Because it would be troubling if she tries to do some strange things, so I have broken the bones of both her hands and legs. In response to that, she fainted and soil her pants caused by the shock. But she comes to her senses after I kicked her off.

It seems that she tried to use the magic item ring which was fitted on her finger. Inside of it is being loaded with the magical power of Olivia. Apparently, it seems to be a magic item that connected to the brains of multiple demons to maintains the brainwash magic.

"Amatsu-sama.....F, forgive me"(Olivia)

"Silence"(Iori)

"Arghhh!!"(Olivia)

I grab the long hair of Olivia and drag her along.

As it was, I looked around the cage in the basement. Apparently it seemed that she been breeding and managing the demonic beings within it. It's few, but there is more than one kind of demonic being.

Among them, there was the cage with maggot a size of a finger wriggling in it. But the hole is so deep that makes its impossible for them to crawl out from there

""Toothy Bug", huh"(Iori)

It is the lowest-class demon who had a tooth near a human.

It is a ferocious demonic being that tries to cut and eat flesh using such tooth, but it was really weak if it were alone. Even if there a swarm of them, they can ward off by using some magical power. Fundamentally, their biting power is not that strong.

"....."

Oh!

I have thought some good thing.

"I-I have not betrayed.....It just Amatsu-sama misunderstanding.....!"(Olivia)

Olivia still makes an excuse till this late in the game.

"Yes you did because I have peeped inside the memories of Luser using the'Golden Sword of Probing'. At that time, I have seen your figure very well"  
(Iori)

".....!"(Olivia)

Olivia is trembling while gasping her mouth.

"Get in!"(Iori)

I open the cage of the Toothy Bug and kicked Olivia in it. She raises her screams and falls into the hole where Toothy Bug are wriggling.

Then I quickly closed and lock the cage. The brainwash seemed to work as the

Toothy Bug avoided Olivia and ran away to the corner of the cage.

"W.....what are you doing.....?"(Olivia)

"I have said it, wasn't I? That I'm going to kill you"(Iori)

"C.....could it be"(Olivia)

She seems to have noticed what I am trying to do as the face of Olivia becoming deathly pale.

"Please wait! Please forgive me! I am just wanting to be recognised! Please! Forgive me.....!. I will give you this territory along with the method of using the brainwash magic! I even will let you do as you want with my body, too. So, please help me!"(Olivia)

With tears, Olivia begins to appeal.

"Gouache probably said the same thing to you, wasn't him? "I do not want to die, please help me""(Iori)

"Eh.....?"(Olivia)

"A little while ago, aren't you the one's who was talking happily about it? So now you just finally got a chance to experience it yourself, aren't you?"(Iori)

"Ah.....ah"(Olivia)

I pick up the ring which I confiscated from Olivia. It is a magic item that maintains the brainwash on the demonic beings.

"No.....No~!"(Olivia)

I cancelled all the effects that the ring was emitting. The brainwash that placed on the demonic beings has been released at once. By doing so, then naturally.

"Ah, ahArghhh!!"(Olivia)

The Toothy Bugs which was on the inside is released from the brainwash is being attracted by Olivia, the foodstuff which appeared in front of them.

With their bare teeth, the demonic beings threw themselves on Olivia all at once.

"S.....stop it! Do not come here! D——!? A,ahahArghhhhh!!"(Olivia)

Olivia whose got her flesh bitten off are screaming.

"You have said it, right. something like "The mixed or the demi-humans, should just obediently become the food for us human", wasn't it?"(Iori)

From thirty years ago, all the while.

"You have preyed on various people"(Iori)

If it's the case.

"You can not complain if yourself have become the preyed one's, right"(Iori)



The Toothy Bugs bites into Olivia. Her legs, body, arm, shoulder, neck and even her face, they were biting her everywhere. Olivia screaming as her flesh "BuchiBuchi" got to tear off.

"No~,NoAaaaaarghhhh! It's gross, It's gross, It's gross, It's gross! Aargghhh! OuchOuchIts hurtOuch!!"(Olivia)

Contrary to that terrible sight, the pace at which the Toothy Bugs eating her flesh is slow. Slowly and steadily, those demonic being bites off her flesh.

"Aaarghh~! Why! Why did I have to go through all of this!? This is a lie, for me to Aaarghh! NuoAaarghhhh!!"(Olivia)

As she swings her broken arm around and flings it against the Toothy Bugs desperately. Several tooth insects are crushed by it while other specimen doesn't mind it at all, as they keep swarming over Olivia.

"Amatsu-sama!! He, Hero! If you are a hero, for dwoin twsih kind ov odds! Pulease huelp me!"(Olivia)

"Amatsu-sama!! He, Hero! If you are a hero, for doing this kind of odds! Please help me!"(Olivia)

"Sorry, but I have already quit being either Hero or Brave, you see"(Iori)

"I don't wat to die in sush pulace! Pless hulp Meeeeeee"(Olivia)

"I don't want to die in such place! Please help Meeeeeee"(Olivia)

Olivia desperately begs while having dishevel hair and mess up her face with her tears, mucus and saliva. The bones of both her hands and legs are broken,

so it will not possible for her to escape or fight. Only the future where she is eaten completely by the Toothy Bugs waiting for her.

"People that you have killed would have thought that they did not want to die, too. Every single one of them and even Gouache! .....even I am. But you just laughed and killed them off"(Iori)

"I'm chorry! Iz my worng! Porgive me! orgive me!"(Olivia)

"I'm sorry! It's my wrong! Forgive me! Forgive me!"(Olivia)

Every last one of them, in spite of tormenting and sneering at other, they would start apologising as soon as they themselves have been thrown in that position. If you don't like being treat like that, then you shouldn't do that to others.

"I don't wan to diee....."(Olivia)

"I don't want to die....."(Olivia)

Olivia's voice is getting smaller.

Even if it is said that her strength is weakened or when the flesh of her whole body is bitten off continuously, she won't cease to breathe for another one hour.

"DO you really feel sorry?"(Iori)

".....!?"(Olivia)

To that question, Olivia shakes her head repeatedly.

"I won do tha anymore! Eitheer tee mized or the demi-umans, I won do that any~or! I own betrayed Amatsu-sama ever, too!! Forgive me! orgiv me! elp me!"(Olivia)

"I won't do that anymore! Either the mixed or the demi-humans, I won't do that anymore! I won't betrayed Amatsu-sama ever, too!! Forgive me! Forgive me! Help me!"(Olivia)

".....Fine, I got it"(Iori)

I took out something from my pouch while said that.

"It's a high-rank potion, drink it"(Iori)

".....aaah!"(Olivia)

I opened the cage for a moment and threw the potion. Olivia crawls like a caterpillar towards the potion that fell to the ground while raising a soundless cry.

What I threw in was a potion of the considerable price. Regarding that it was a high-rank potion is not a lie, too.

"N~gulp.....glup"(Olivia)

Opening the bottle with her bare mouth, Olivia drank the potion like a beast. The effect will be shown immediately as Olivia's wound is being cured.

However,

".....eh?"(Olivia)

Just a little by little.....

"It's the "continuation-type potion" which I bought at the Imperial capital. Unlike a normal potion, it won't cure the wounds in one go"(Iori)

"Ah...argh"(Olivia)

"Instead, your wounds will continue to heal little by little for several hours"(Iori)

"AaaaAaaaarRGHhhhhh!!"(Olivia)

A wound of Olivia is cured. However, the Toothy Bugs bites off the cured part. That part will heal again.

It is the repetition.

"Even among the "continuation-type potion" is an exceptionally expensive one. Well, if at that pace, it should probably last about half a day?"(Iori)

"Though, you said that you will help me!! You liar! Why!?"(Olivia)

"I have never say such a thing, you know"(Iori)

As the *CrunchCrunch* the flesh eating sound continues continuously.

"Did you have said it before, that you enjoying yourself playing with Gouache thoroughly"(Iori)

"AaAh~....."(Olivia)

"So, you should be enjoying yourself thoroughly, too. Aren't you glad?"(Iori)



"Thaaaaaat's.....!!"(Olivia)

The sound of meat being munch echoes.

MunchMunch.

MunchMunchMunch.

MunchMunchMunchMunch.



About three hours have passed.

'Please help me''I don't want to die''Why did such thing happen to me'

At first, Olivia was crying like that, but now it has changed.

"Just.....ll me, kill me.....KiLL ME!!"(Olivia)

Even though it has not been more than half a day has passed, she already said such a thing. Even though Gouache has endured it for half a day.

"Be relieved"(lori)

I say to Olivia.

"At first, wasn't it was you said that'I don't want to die'? So, in response to that, I will keep you alive"(lori)

I said while smiling at Olivia who being stuck with a hopeless expression.

"——because I'm such a gentle guy.....after all"(lori)



The everlasting pain.

As the flesh is being bitten off endlessly.

Moreover, she not being allowed to die in such a situation either.

She cried and cried again'I don't want to die' before start to begging'Just kill me'.

In response to all of it, there's only smile been throw off to her.

Then a few hours later. A woman who ridiculed others and used them as her food/prey.

"————"

Literally, leaving no bones as she became a food/prey of bug feeding.

## Chapter 10: Being Frightened By Darkness

Olivia Elieresire is dead.

She was bitten by the Toothy Bugs and died in despair while screaming in agony. Only a large amount of blood stains and Olivia's scattered clothes and an ornament to be left in the cage.

After ascertaining the death of Olivia, I erased all the traces that we had come here.

Olivia was carrying out a horrifying experiment using the demonic beings. Due to the experiment, many villagers died.

Eventually, Olivia was killed by a demon due to an accident during the experiment.

Perhaps it will be such a scenario.

After that, Karen is supposed to coping with that. Olivia cried out that she would like to be recognised, but if it keeps as it is she would be known to the world as the worst criminal.

".....Gouache"(Iori)

I searched the basement, but there was no corpse of Gouache could be found. It probably has already been disposed of.

Why is such good man must die such a death?

Remembering what Olivia was talking about happily really make me feel nauseated.

"Shit....."(Iori)

.....will Karen be able to cope up with the death of her parents?

Thanks to quick wit of Elfi, she should not have heard that story. Still that her father has died would be transmitted.

In the same way as her father, Karen desperately did her best, thinking about the people of the fief. What was waiting ahead of it was no other than such ending.

"Shit.....!"(Iori)

While searching, whether it was before disposal or not, it was possible to find a few of blood stains and part of the body that probably from the population of the fief. According to words of that fellow, probably there's a lot of people have been sacrificed.

She was living in self-satisfaction on their death. So, I pray that they will be comforted a bit with the dreadful end of that woman. Because, that's the only thing I can do for them.

While searching, I also found a brainwash magic report that Olivia put together.

It is a simple instruction order that can be mastered in a short time. If I spend more time performing the brainwash, it's possible for me to do the complicated thing like the one she did to Jean

Olivia herself seems to have borrowed the power of the ring because she can not perform multiple order at the same time.

This ring seems to be independent, too. Also, other than the brainwash magic it seems that it is possible to make the sense of the opponent deviate depending on a number of magical powers.

".....As for brainwash, to derail the subject sense, huh"(Iori)

I mostly understood the summary of the brainwash magic because I got it directly from Olivia and I know roughly how to exercise it, too.

It seems possible to use it for my revenge.

".....With this, three down"(Iori)

Merwin Johannes.

Beltoga.

Olivia Elieresire.

I have achieved my revenge on the betrayers who have lived their lives comfortably.

I have driven them into despair while make them regret on what they have done and made them apologise sincerely, but the best part is that I end up

killing them as it is.

But it still has just begun.

There are still many betrayers.

I cannot stop here.

Then I completely erased the trace that I was here and it was when I tried to leave the basement behind.

"——Whose there!"(Iori)

I turned around quickly as I suddenly felt like being watched from behind. There should not be anyone in the basement.

Did somebody from the mansion get down to the basement?

The question immediately turned out to be a mistake when I looked back at the things that are watching me.

"——....."

At the corner of the room.

Under cover of the darkness of the dusky basement, an eyeball was floating. It is composed of water as it occasionally *PokoPoko* bubble are appeared from inside of the eyeballs.

My sight match with it.

An inorganic eye made of water and at the moment when our line of sight intersected. It distorted to shape of dreadful "Smiles".

"————"

At the next moment, the eyeball disappeared without any trace after the bubble burst.

"....."

That is a magic.

Someone produced that eyeball and was watching me.  
—Who the hell.....?

I tried to find out where the eyeball was up until now, but there are no magic

traces.

I do not know its true identity, but I need to be cautious. While felt unpleasant, I left the basement after everyone else has gone.



By the time I returned to Karen's house, the sun was falling.

Given that I go over to Olivia at midnight, more than half a day passed. I felt nothing until the fatigue struck as soon as I knew the elapsed time has passed.

"It was late, you know"(Elfi)

Elfi was waiting in front of the mansion.

"Yeah....."(Iori)

"How was it?"(Elfi)

"I have taken care of it, it will be enough as a reward"(Iori)

".....Have you killed her normally?"(Elfi)

"Of course, I have not done anything unusual. Rather I used the continuation-type portion so she won't suffer"(Iori)

".....as usual you have come up with nasty things"(Elfi)

Elfi nodded in understanding,"It is certainly a suitable end for that woman"while frowning as if she imagined the scene. I also explained about the eyeball of water that I saw in the basement.

"It seems that someone was watching the events in that underground with remote magic"(Elfi)

"Or probably it's monitoring'You or my conduct'"(Iori)

Or either both of it?

"The feat to fly off the eyeball and watched the situation in such distance, it can not be done by anyone. If I or Ortega's and other high ranking Mazoku, it will be possible to create an alter ego body as we want"(Elfi)

"Its either a high-ranking Mazoku or a capable magician....."(Iori)

Either it's the assassinator from the Maou forces that were monitoring our movement.

Or the act of the "Selector"—by the kingdom magician.

"Either way, it must be a troublesome opponent and for the time being please be vigilant"(Iori)

"Got it, I will be careful even if there is no watchdog around, too"(Elfi)

We have already travelled across two labyrinths.

We have never encountered any pursuer up to now, but it just matters of time for we to get caught in a surprise attack. If we act as it is, it is also a matter of time that Luser to appear with"Yoo~, Amatsu-Ku~n"

"So.....What happens to the mansion after that? Are those brainwashed people alright?"(Iori)

"No problem has happened. That guy Jean and other servants are also normal"(Elfi)

Apparently, at the same time as releasing the effectiveness of the ring, Jean's brainwash seemed to be solved, too.

"Is there any aftereffects?"(Iori)

"Yes, I saw their conditions with my demon eyes, but there is nothing unusual with their brain and magical power"(Elfi)

"Really? That's good, then"(Iori)

"There's someone have ambiguous memories of the last few days, but there is nothing more than that"(Elfi)

There seems to be no other aftereffect.

For now, regarding brainwashing, I could call it will be pause for the time being.

The problem is Karen.

"How is Karen doing?"(Iori)

There was only that.

It isn't strange for her to be upset.

But Elfi said it with a grim expression.

"She's woke up about two hours after she fainted.....there is no particular change with her state"(Elfi)

"There is no particular change.....?"(Iori)

Though her parents have died, huh?

"Without a wink of sleep, she looking over the state of her employees and preparing for the cleanup"(Elfi)

"That is....."(Iori)

Karen doesn't especially have such strong heart because I realise it from the matter at the Imperial castle. She's just an ordinary woman who is acting in a temperate manner. She was forced into a cruel reality and will she able to act like there are nothing changes?

"For now, I will enter the mansion and you can see the state of that girl by seeing it directly"(Elfi)

".....Ah, that's right"(Iori)

I open the door and enter in the mansion.

As soon as I entered, I was been called out by a servant.

"Welcome back, Iori-sama. Karen-sama is waiting for you"

It seems that Karen has told the servant to tell me to come to her room. I reply and head straight to Karen's room.

The inside of the mansion was quiet as the servant who seems to have been brainwashed seems to take a rest for just in case. There are only a few people working, including the servant from a while ago.

They walked along a quiet hallway and came in front of Karen's room. It seems that she is still awake because I can hear the sound of writing brush from inside.

".....Karen-san, I have returned"(Iori)

When I call out, the sound stops. Karen replied, and the door opened immediately right after that.

"Iori-san! Do you have an injury!?"(Karen)

Karen who has appeared was changing into the loose clothes which seem to be a negligee. She called out to me as soon as she saw my face.

As Elfi said, her tone, state and expression is certainly like the same atmosphere that she had before.



".....I'm fine"(Iori)

"All that matters is that you're safe.....!"(Karen)

Karen had a relieved expression on her face when she saw there are no injuries on me.

"I have heard what happen back then from Elfi-san that I fainted after being attacked by the demonic being and how you two have rescued me.....And I was worried to hear that Iori-san is being left alone"(Karen)

Karen who supposed fainted by the demonic being is the stories both of Elfi and me had arrange beforehand. Because, I don't want to tell Karen about that talk of Olivia.

"Yes, I have cleared up the demonic beings. It just that.....Olivia's brainwash magic has failed and she ends up being attacked by the demonic being that she manipulated....."(Iori)

"Is that so"(Karen)

Only as for instant that somewhat darkened facial expressions of her have immediately returned to her usual expression.

"Well.....I have to report this incident to your Majesty and I have to go to see the state of the labyrinth, too.....So, I have to work on it soon"(Karen)

".....Are you going to start it now?"(Iori)

"Yes..... I'm sorry. But, I will also prepare the remuneration for Iori-san's properly"

"I have not forgotten.....!"said Karen with a mischievous smile as if to make fun of me.

.....No, that's wrong.

"I have heard that you haven't been sleeping since then, Karen, why don't you take a rest for a short while?"(Iori)

Then, Karen shook her head in disapproval and reply me.

"There are a lot of things to do and I do not have time to take a break at such a time, too"(Karen)

".....But"(Iori)

"I am okay and more than that, wasn't lori-san who have fought against the demonic beings? It was lori-san who need a rest right now"(Karen)

Karen doesn't intent back down when she said she's okay. Karen breaks off the conversation with that and returned to her room.

While both I and Elfi have no choice but to leave the place and told her"If there is something, please tell the servant"

"It will be useless even if you going to say anything right now, isn't it?.....So, we have no choice but to leave her alone for now"

".....Yeah, that's right"(lori)

"Well .....That girl's word is also true, too. lori should also somewhat tired, right? I suggest you take a rest once"(Elfi)

There is indeed a sense of exhaustion.

Although I able to keep on without taking a long sleep, I should just take some rest while I can, right?

After asking the servant to make a light meal, I returned to my room with Elfi. I lie on a bed and look up at the ceiling.

What comes to mind is the expression of Karen as usual.

"As usual....."(lori)

Even though there is no reason for her to be that calm.

"....."

Many sacrifices have created by Olivia.

The people who knew that would feel sad.

Surely many people should cry.

Even Karen would want to do that.....

——A lot of crying faces.

"——"(lori)

Noises ran into my field of vision. Someone is standing in a sandstorm spreading all over.

".....Kuh"(lori)

The proof of the brave on my right arm is emitting heat.

I will bear the heat on the back of my hand.

".....Iori?"(Elfi)

How many seconds have elapsed?

My consciousness returned by Elfi's strange voice as she sits on the next of my bed. My view returns to normal and the heat on the proof is settled, too.

"Is there something wrong?"(Elfi)

"No, I am alright"(Iori)

.....I wonder if caused by the accumulated fatigue.

For the time being, I should just take a rest.

I close my eyes after I decide to do so. My consciousness fell down smoothly as I immediately fell asleep.



Fuu, I woke up.

Looking into the gap between the curtains, the outside was dark.

Is it already night?

Although it is night, the lights in the room are bright. By the way, while I am staying at this mansion, I think the light was always on when I get up in the morning.

It should be no other than Elfi's doing.

"Suu.....Suu....."(Elfi)

Elfi makes the breathing on the next bed while sleeping.

"Good grief....."(Iori)

I raised my body and turned off the room lights. Not by electricity, but the magic is being consumed by left on the light.

By just left it on, the consumption of magical power would become ridiculous too. Even though, she said sort of things like "Do not put out the lights", but it won't do either.

Although she got no body, her head looks a little fluffy.

Rather than my body, I may be tired mentally. I am still sleepy and should I have another sleep?

I yawn and lie down on my bed.

It was the time when I was going to fall asleep once again in the room where it became dark.

"———!!"

*Gaba* Suddenly Elfi got up vigorously. She's looking around on the bed while having a rough breath. Then she trembles and embraces her own body with both hands.

"I do not want it.....I hate it, being in the dark.....again"(Elfi)

".....Elfi?"(Iori)

"Please don't leave me.....alone"(Elfi)

Elfi got up from the bed and turned towards me.  
Her state is strange.

"Ori.....Iori"(Elfi)

I raise my body from a bed in responded by the feeble voice of Elf.

"Iori~....."(Elfi)

".....What's wrong?"(Iori)

When I return a reply, I heard Elfi breathed a sigh of relief.  
Then Elfi puts on the light again.

".....Didn't I told you to don't turn off the light"(Elfi)

Elfi glare at me while sitting on the edge of my bed.

".....Are you afraid of a dark?"(Iori)

Speaking of which, even on a journey, she tried to keep the bonfire not to disappear at night and I feel like she was showing such behaviour in Merwin basement, too.

"You are wrong, it just that I hate being alone in a dark and silent place"(Elfi)

.....Didn't you said that you scare of dark?

"Haven't I told you before.....In the seal is pitch black without any sound and light"(Elfi)

".....Ah"(Iori)

"It's after I go out of a seal.....I can not stay alone in a quiet and dark place anymore because my will body trembles as my breathing becomes rough"(Elfi)

"That's why.....you keep the light....."(Iori)

".....It was my wrong who did not explain it properly"(Elfi)

Elfi told me while cast down her eyes and sneer at herself with "Sorry" or "please do not turn off the light"

".....It's my bad, for not become aware of it"(Iori)

Although we have been together for a while, it is really pathetic.

"That fine, But.....If you thought that it was your bad to turn off the lights..... Then, have some talk with me till I get sleepy because I have woken up now"(Elfi)

"Got it"(Iori)

Then I spoke with Elfi for about an hour.

For thing in the future, about brainwash magic, about labyrinths and finally some idle talk. It has passed for one hour and Elfi has got to sleep again.

"....."

While keeping the light on, I also close my eyes as I lay down. I get drowsy provoked by Elfi's sleeping breath.

".....By the way"(Iori)

Just before falling asleep——.

Unaware of it, I become able to sleep without being cautious even though Elfi is next to me.

Such thing has crossed my mind.

## Chapter 11: Emergency Events

Even I were are closing my eyes I have woken up from sleep due to the dazzling sun rays. The morning sun came in through the gap of the curtain when I opened half eyes and I can hear the twittering sound of a bird from the outside.

".....is it already in the morning?"(Iori)

I wake up and raise my body immediately and take a deep breath to awaken my consciousness.

I was bad at waking up, but while travelling as a brave I got a technique to stabilise my consciousness as soon as I got up because I have been ambushed many times when I was asleep.

There is no drowsiness and the fatigue is completely gone, too. Apparently, it seems I was able to get a deep sleep without seeing a dream for the first time in a while. After being betrayed, I had only shallow sleep that enough to wake me up with a single sound.

"It been quite a while....."(Iori)

I scatter the futon and turn my eyes on Elfi who is sleeping in the next bed. I slept next to her many times after we went out of the Labyrinth Hades, but at that time I was lacking sleep due to vigilance. But even though this fellow is next to me, I was able to fall asleep as usual.

Rather——.

"I....."(Iori)

"Nn~.....Iori"(Elfi)

While not aware of it, Elfi reacts in response to my muttering. She *Gorori* tosses about in bed while talking half awake. That ends up with exposing her idiotic drooling face.

"Call.....the chef.....no.....it's not bad. Rather it's good and I want to eat it more....."(Elfi)

"....."(Iori)

What kind of talking in sleep is it?

Well.....it is difficult to keep vigilant against such a defenceless fellow.

"Good grief....."(Iori)

I rearranged the futon which slipped off because of her sleeping posture and turned off the lights in the room. The sunrise from outside is totally bright. With this, she wouldn't be frightened by darkness.

I leave the room and walk in the mansion and the servant had already got up and was asking me what I want for the breakfast.

"I'll eat together with my companion after she wakes up"(Iori)

"Elfi-sama, wasn't it? Yes, I understand"

"Say, how was Karen-san doing, since then?"(Iori)

".....She continues working without sleeping and she said that she will go out to check the state of the barrier around this afternoon"

"I see....."(Iori)

Certainly, for Karen, there is still something that she should do yet is left. There would be also a lot of something urgent. However, keeping it without sleeping in that state of mind will affect her health. It's better for her to take a good rest once.

After parting from the servant, I heading to her room to check the state of Karen directly. It is at the time when I saw the room door of Karen that I entered yesterday.

"Good morning, Iori-san"(Jean)

I happened to meet it with Jean who suddenly came out from another room. I heard that Jean took a rest, but right now he is wearing the valet clothes.

"Are you feeling okay now?"(Iori)

"Yes, originally some of my memory was only vague. There is no serious matter. Besides, I can not afford to take a break at this difficult time"(Jean)

After sleeping overnight, Jean seems to be working as usual. While the other servants seem to be absent for several days, unlike Jean.

"I have heard the story, Iori-san.....I'm sorry to have caused you trouble.

Although I was brainwashed, what I did was serious....."(Jean)

"Everything was that woman doing and there is no need for Jean-san to apologize"(Iori)

I stop Jean who is going to lower his head.  
Olivia who is the culprit has been dropped in hell.  
This matter is over with that.

Because Karen understands that, too, Jean's behaviour is unquestioned.  
"Olivia.....I heard that she died from an "accident". Thank you very much.  
With this.....Gouaches-sama would....."(Jean)  
".....Jean-san"(Iori)

Is he resenting Olivia because of he unable to protect Gouaches from her?  
Jean uttered the word of gratitude while clenching his fist.  
".....Is Iori-san going to Karen-sama place?"(Jean)  
"Yes, I intend to call out to her once because I've heard that she's not sleeping all the while"(Iori)  
"I see.....I also spoke to her a short while, too, and I was told that she wants to be left alone because she was busy. "I also want you to inform to the other", is what she said"(Jean)  
".....Is that so"(Iori)  
"I'm very sorry, regarding the reward of Iori-san, please wait for just a little more"(Jean)

I bow to the apologetic Jean before leaving the place.  
"She does not want to talk to anyone right now", probably that what he mean.  
Right now, Karen is doing her best just by herself. Moreover, she is providing compensation and information of the labyrinth. I do not say it must be right now and by all means.

He said that she will go to check the state of the barrier when it is noon, and I will call out for her again at that time.



Then I returned to my room and waking up Elfi who still sleeping.



I eat breakfast with Elfi of the absentminded look before we gather information in the library. Because right now, I am investigating about the "Labyrinth of Death Swamp" that we will challenge from now on.

"By the way, Iori has once broken through the Labyrinth of Death Swamp, wasn't it?"(Elfi)

Elfi who sitting next to me suddenly muttered.

"Yeah, I come with my party member while having some backed up from the empire"(Iori)

As the name suggests, there is a swamp in the Labyrinth of Death Swamp.

That is not just an ordinary swamp, too.

It is a heinous poisonous swamp that could result in a death just basking in miasma that swamp gives off and just by touching it your body could melt, too.

The Labyrinth of Death Swamp is tunnel like a cave system with a poisonous swamp.

We went ahead through the inside by using magic items to prevent the poisoning. The miasma of the swamp has the effect of reducing one's magical power and I remember when I fought against Water Demon Lord, I really had a hard time fighting that fellow with magical power shortage.

"Fumu.....but as far as I can see in the recent books, the structure of the labyrinth seems to have changed a lot"(Elfi)

".....you're right"(Iori)

As Elfi says, according to the information we gained so far, the structure of the labyrinth is different from before. The number of demonic beings coming out from it has increased, moreover, the traps are set everywhere, too. And inside the labyrinth seems to be a cave that leading to a building that looks like some sort of castles.

"Probably Ortega, I wonder if this generation's of Water Demon Lord who remodelled it"(Elfi)

"Modification.....huh. Say, Elfi. Can you remodelled such a labyrinth so easily?"(Iori)

"Although it's not easy, but ordinarily, it was possible to be done"(Elfi)

As Elfi says, the labyrinth is in charge of Mazoku who had the "Maou's crest"—In other words, it seems to be a kind of demonic being that created by the Maou. If its creator's the Maou it seems possible to twiddle with the structure of the labyrinth by consuming a lot of magical power.

Also, it seems that the demons in the labyrinth are obedient to those who are admitted by the Maou. Just by utilising that right, it seems that it is possible to change the structure and the trap on the labyrinth even if it is not the Maou itself.

I haven't thought many questions, but the reason why the Earth Demon Lord and the Flame Demon Lord are not attacked by demonic beings would be such a reason.

"If it was really the Water Demon Lord who remodelled, it would be a troublesome one's with high intelligence"(Iori)

".....Is it a demonic being or a Mazoku who got its intelligence evolved like Bargildo?"(Elfi) \*TN The Earth Demon Lord in the first volume 1

Such a thing is written in a note concerned to the labyrinth which I left by Gouache. Occasionally a wounded monster comes out from the entrance of the labyrinth. They seem to run wild in order to break the barrier as if trying to escape from something.

Either there's a fighting between the demonic being in the labyrinth or is it harmed by the Water Demon Lord itself.

In the former case, it means that the demonic being inside the labyrinth is ferocious. If it is the latter, the Water Demon Lord is probably a violent tempered fellow.

Or are the fellow enjoying tormenting the demonic being?

Either way, this labyrinth seems to be very difficult to deal with, too.

Suddenly my shoulder was with a \*Pon\* while I had a grim face.

"Be relieved because I will knock down that Water Demon Lord in a short time while Iori should just earn time as usual"(Elfi)

Elfi said such a thing while having such well-defined expression.

".....Ah right, because my magical power returned to a certain extent, I should be able to earn us a certain amount of time"(Iori)

I can use some magic even without a magic stone. Thanks to Jade's longsword and the crimson armour, my physical ability and defence power are perfect. Although there's an only scarce amount of it, by adding the power of a magic stone, I should be able to fight against the opponent such as the Demon Lord, too.

"If there should be any chance that something might happen, then Iori should hide behind me. Thanks to the return of my arms, now I can perform the close combat, too. Even if my Demon eyes can not make it in time, I still can fight if I use my arm"(Elfi)

"So, it's that technique, wasn't it.....Certainly, the power is high, but the consumption of the magical power is high, too, right?"(Iori)

"If I hold down a bit my power, I will be able to use it several times"(Elfi)

As far as it is reliable.

In this way, while studying about the Labyrinth of Death Swamp, we discussed our battle method. Regarding poison, I have prepared equipment for two while I was in the hot spring town. Even in the Empire, I have bought a detoxification potion, so there will be no problem with our preparation.

While I'm doing that, the sun has to approach the Midheaven.

It will be midday soon.

It will be around the time for Karen goes to see the state of the barrier.

It was when I tried to put books in order and tried to brush the dust off and go out of the room.

*KanKanKan* I heard the sound of ringing the bell from the outside.

"That's noisy"(Iori)

The inside of the mansion became a bit noisy after hearing the bell.

I can hear the sound of *DotaDotaDota* running around.

Also, I heard people were screaming from outside the window.  
It seems that someone is shouting something. Because of the sound of the bell, it is impossible to hear what s(he) is saying from inside the mansion.

".....I do not think it just something insignificant had occurs"(Iori)  
"Did something happen outside?"(Elfi)  
"Elfi, let's go check it out"(Iori)  
"Yeah"(Elfi)

When I left the room, I immediately saw Karen appearance. I see she is talking with the man who seems to be the population of the fief who isn't an employee. The facial expression of the man changed and he looked quite panicked.

"What happened?"(Iori)  
I rush up and call out to her.  
"Iori-san and Elf-san.....A serious thing has happened"(Karen)  
Karen's complexion is also bad.  
It seems that something bad is happening.

"On earth, what has....."(Iori)  
Karen made a serious look and said.  
"— —The barrier of the labyrinth was broken by the Water Demon Lord"  
(Karen)

## Chapter 12: The Target That Appeared

"The barrier has been destroyed by the Water Demon Lord.....?"(Iori)

".....Yes, It seems that the Water Demon Lord and the excellent Mazoku who destroyed the barrier are heading for the village with several demonic being.....!"(Karen)

It seems that the population of the fief who noticed the attack quickly ringed the bells and called for reinforcement and the population of the fief seems to have sent an envoy to the residence of both of Olivia and Karen.

"Ka-Karen-sama.....Can we do something....."

"Please treat the population of the fief quickly, I'll deal with the Water Demon Lord and the demonic being somehow"(Karen)

"There is population of the fief who failed to escape.....Karen-sama, please.....!"

When she evacuated the population of the fief who came to the mansion, Karen began to issue her instructions. It is like the gathering of soldiers in the territory that heading towards the labyrinth of Death Swamp.

"Karen-san, we will accompany you!"(Iori)

"No..... I can no longer trouble Iori-san. I will take responsibility to subjugate the demonic beings that came out of the labyrinth. So Iori-san and others should be headed toward the population of the fief"(Karen)

Karen gave me a refusal of my proposal. Before Karen run off, she said that she wants us to protect the evacuee's people if there was a chance that worst case might happen.

"....."

Karen's complexion is bad. Her physical and mental condition should be the worst, too.

In such a situation, can she make a decent command.....?

"The Water Demon Lord who is supposed to protect the labyrinth and why did that fellow bother to come out outside....."(Elfi)

"I guess there was something outside.....For example, there are enemies that must be knocked down"(Iori)

".....are we the cause?"(Elfi)

"I don't know. However, such possibility exists, too"(Iori)

"....."(Elfi)

There will also be soldiers in the territory of Eliesteel, but in situations where there is no Lord, so the swift actions from them will not be possible. Even if they call for reinforcement from outside of the territory, it will take several hours to arrive. In other words, Karen is the only one who can deal with the Water Demon Lord right now.

I don't know how skilled do the Rayford's troops are. But no matter how strong a soldier is, it will not be enough to win against the Water Demon Lord. If Karen fights against the Water Demon Lord in this way, she will definitely be defeated.

"What are we going to do, Iori?"(Elfi)

"It has been decided. I will head to the Water Demon Lord were. It's because this is a great opportunity itself. Because the Water Demon Lord has to bother itself to come out from the troublesome labyrinth. If we kill that fellow here, then capturing labyrinths will become much easier"(Iori)

"Umu, I thought you would say so"(Elfi)

We came back to our room and got ready.

It is full gear to oppose the Water Demon Lord as an opponent.

We get out of the mansion after done with the preparations. Meanwhile, Karen is still gathering the soldiers. It will take time for them to head towards the labyrinth.

It is necessary for Elfi to get serious if the Water Demon Lord is going to be our opponent. In order to get the full power, she has to take off the magic item that essential for her disguise. Given that, it would be better for only the two of us to go to the labyrinth than waiting for Karen's done with the gathering of soldiers.

".....Let's go"(Elfi)

"Yeah"(Iori)

Thus, we left the residence and headed for the labyrinth.



The territory has fallen into confusion. The bell which sounded until a while ago has already stopped. Instead, people's bitter voice comes from here and there.

"Because there is a lot of residents in the vicinity of the Labyrinth, I thought that there were lots of courageous people, but as far as I see, it seems not to be that way"(Elfi)

"I guess it because until then there were no facts that the barrier might broken"  
(Iori)

Running through in the middle of confusion. Although I was using the "Accelerating Accelerator" that have considerable speed, Elfi manages to accompany me without going pale. Even though she had not regained her legs yet, as usual, the person herself has the superhuman spec.

".....So, it's over there"(Iori)

I saw the figure of the demonic being while I continued running at full speed for a while. The squeal of the people who failed to escape and demonic being roaring are echoes while the black smoke which broke out from a private house is trailing along in the sky. It isn't possible to confirm the figure of the Water Demon Lord.

There's a muddy green liquid was about to enter a private house. Just before that happens, the door opened vigorously and the man who grasped the sword popped out.

"D-Dad!"

"You stay in the house!"

Then a man pushed a girl who is trying to follow him inside the house before a green liquid sprang there. That is a slime variety—"Swamp Slime" that inhabiting the swamp.

"UoooOOH!!!"

That man swung his sword to intercepted the slime. The slime's body receives

the attack as part of it is *Bichari* crushed. However, in an instant, the part that scattered has gone back to the body of slime in the next moment.

"D-Damn!"

The slime jumped as it trying to capture that man.

"——Demon Eyes • Complete Destruction Explosion"(Elfi)

Elfi demon eyes have barely to explodes the slime in time. Its body does not reproduce again because probably the nucleus that floating somewhere in its body might have been blown off.

"You guys.....are"

"We are adventurer, are you okay?"(Iori)

"Y-yeah"

I help the man who falls on his backside to stand up and listen to the current situation of the village. It seems that there was a raid of demonic beings only a few minutes ago. The person who took time with their preparations has failed to get out in time, and the man told that several people have fall victim in his trembling voice.

"Did you see the Water Demon Lord?"(Iori)

"N-no, only demonic beings are there and I have not seen what seems as such"

Although there is a figure of demonic beings but there is no figure of the Water Demon Lord.

Were you already satisfied with the destruction of the barrier and have returned to the labyrinth?

Or are you going to wait and see from somewhere?

"!?"(Iori)

"UooH!?"

At the timing when I was about to say something, there was a movement at the edge of my sight. Thus, I pull the man and spring back from that place. In the place where I stood until a while ago has been struck directly by a liquid. The vegetation from which grew in the ground is making the *Juss* melting sound.



The thing that attacked us was a big acid serpent the Acid Snake. Besides the demonic beings which have crept out from a labyrinth such as a slime like just now and the toothy bugs which crawl on the ground were also gathering here.

"Anyway, get away from here quickly——"(Iori)

"I can't run away yet! Because my daughter is still left behind at the house!"

The man yelled while pointing to a private house and I saw there's a girl's face peeped from the door of the house.

".....I understand. Please get your daughter while we attract demonic beings"(Iori)

"F-forgive me.....!"

Thus, the man is running towards the private house in the back.

I sewed the head of Acid Snake which was going to sprang at me on the ground with a knife. That attack itself has become the trigger to all the surrounding demonic being to attacked all at once.

"Can you handle it without releasing your disguise?"(Iori)

"Of course——!!"(Elfi)

As Elfi's both eyes are glitters in crimson. Next, a small-scale explosion has occurred in succession. The demonic being flesh scattered as they exploded.

The demonic being is preying on me after it weaves its way from the gap of the attack. In response to it, I avoid the slime at which leaping upon me while determining the position of the nucleus inside it. At the moment it arched back trying to jump again, I shattered the inner nucleus with the jade longsword.

The remains of demonic beings are scattered in a blink of an eye during our offence and defence against them. The piled up corpse is already looked like a small mountain itself. Yet, there are no demonic being of the Tsucigumo or Flame Dragon classes because the ones that keep attacking us till now is only the small fry.

To the extent that both I and Elfi is sufficed enough to take care of it.

"It's all right now!"

That man finally arrived at the private house and lifted up his daughter and he

comes towards us while covering the girl in his arm like protecting fragile things.

"Are those scary thing already gone.....?"

"Yeah! That Onii-san will help us! And daddy will protect you from whatever there is!"

While Elfi demon eyes are hindering the demonic beings that try to approach the father and daughter. Meanwhile, I covered any opening with my sword skill.

From the private house, those two have come just before my eyes.

Shall we break through the encirclement and let those two escape from this place once?

I slashed down the demonic beings in front of me as turn my gaze toward Elfi who call out to me.

At that moment——.

"——Then, try to protect she from this"

At the same time with the voice that resonated from the sky, a mass of magical power hit the body of the man.

*Splash* The sound of something wet or moist that follow up with the sound of explosions echoes.

Without a scream, the man who had greatly damaged on the left half of his body collapsed on the ground while a girl that he held in his arm was thrown out and rolled on the ground.

".....Daddy?"

As that girl crawls and approaches the man. However, that man says nothing to her. It is because he is already dead from that blow.

"Wonderfully, it's wonderful. You manage to protect that child from that blow, aren't you!"

"A.....Aaaaaah!"

The girl cries while clinging to the man lifeless body. As she keeps calling out for her father many times while having dishevelled hair.

"Please don't cry. It would be all right because I will be sending you to the

same place as your father soon"

Then, immediately follow up by such ridiculous and joyful voice. Numerous bullets of water are falling down from the sky towards the girl.

"——!!"

I thrust myself in front of the girl and slashing the falling bullets. The deviated aimed bullet is creating an impact that created a big hole around the immediate vicinity. Its a brutal blow that definitely will make the one who got caught up by it will be leaving no trace.

There are no figures of the one who performs those attack when I looked up at the sky. But distinctively, the sign of the concealment magic could be felt in the sky.

".....Show up yourself"(Iori)

As I pointed my sword toward the magical power and call out to that fellow. There was a presence that *KusuKusu* laughing on the direction where I pointed my sword.

"Oh, sorry. Even though it was a reunion after a long absence, I guess you should recognise me with this, won't you?"

The concealment magic was released.

The magic comes off with *PeriPeri* and the appearance of the man who had assimilated with the landscape appears.

"———"

What appeared was a young man.

A facial expression that gives a gentle impression to indigo hair that has been adjusted to a reasonable length. There is no wasteful fat on his body and it is thin enough to call it delicate.

However.

".....You bastard"(Iori)

What he wearing is an utterly dark military uniform that shows his affiliation to the Mazoku army. And I could see a horn that grew from on his forehead

after that young man combed his hair that affected by the wind.

That young man is.

It's impossible for me to not knowing who he is.  
Because I won't forget that bastard face.

"Dionis.....!"(Iori)

A once traitor.  
Dionis Rubalk and he smiling pleasantly while floating in the sky.

# Chapter 13: The Wicked Water Demon Lord

Dionis Harberg

He was a water ogre who excelled with the water magic among the highly capable Onizoku and he was my former companion who joined the brave party on behalf of the Onizoku.

Yes, that's right.

He was one of my former companion who had betrayed me and one of those people who I want to take my revenge the most.

——I do not want to see anyone from my tribe get hurt anymore. So Amatsu, I will fight with you too.

When we first met, Dionis told me that he wants to fight forsake of protecting his people and for I who was always being dragged by the situations was admired such firm-willed Dionis.

Dionis also approved my ideals of wanting to create a peaceful world. "If you want to make such a wonderful world, I will do anything to help you to realise it"

That's what he said.

He was my precious friend who has to fight together with me for the same goal.

That's what I thought so.

Unfortunately, such trust was crushed in astonishment.

It was during the battle at the Demon King castle and what was waiting for me there is no other than the betrayal of my own friends as my chest had been pierced by the surprised attack of Dionis.

And while smile and grinning, he said,

——Your role is over when you had weakened the Maou and brought us here.

——We can kill the Moau even if there is no power of the brave after we

transferring your magical power to Luser.

——With this, your role is over, do you get it?

I still can see those scene in my dream even now. My comrade who had fought back to back with me until then has laughed while exposing his malice frankly at me. Dionis reply to my word of saying “are we not fought with the same goals?”

——I wonder if those dreams are better to be seen while you asleep?

That was Dionis true feeling.

Back then he always agreed and said that he wanted to be my strength many times. Yet, he had said that just to deceive me after all.

It would be better if he just denies those ideals. Because the current me can understand my own naivety from back then. Nevertheless, it was something unforgivable to be thrown away while been laugh as having served one’s purpose.

It does not matter even if it is a demi-human or even if it is the spy of the demon king forces. Those debts which I was killed while being ridicule at, I will return it back by all means.

In order for me to move on.



"Please step back for a while"(Dionis)

When Dionis said so, the surrounding demonic beings stopped moving. I have heard it from Elfi before and I guess that he has been recognised by the Demon King for him to be able to control the demonic beings in such way.

"....."(Iori)

My head went blank filled with anger as I saw an appearance of a man with delicate features who hardly changed since thirty years ago. For I who is instinctively almost about to cut him with my sword out of anger, are grinding my teeth while clenching my fists to repress my rage.

That’s right.

Because I won't reach that fellow even if I act out of my anger.

"———"

Besides, it was not only one me who was suppressing an anger. For Elfi whose subordinates was killed by Dionis. It would be impossible for her to not feel anger by it.

".....It's been a long time, Mizu Oni (water ogre). It really amusing for a man who once a party member of a brave that ends up becoming the Water Demon Lord himself"(Elfi)

"Hello there, Elfisuzaku. Actually, I have my own circumstances in various ways, too. Leaving that aside, I was surprised too. That you were able to slip out from the seal of Lucifina. Well, congratulations for that"(Dionis)

Followed by Dionis *PachiPachi* clapping his hand while looking down at this place from the sky. In his friendly tone and expression, but his intention to make a fool of her is transmitted too.

"Hmph, do you thought that you could continue to seal me with such level of sealing? Surprisingly an underestimator, aren't you?"(Elfi)

"Haa, I should apologise then? Being deprived of the seat of the demon king along with the life of an important subordinate. I thought that the seal of that extent was enough for a loser who had been torn apart, you know"(Dionis)

Then Dionis provokes Elfi while overlooking this place from the sky. But Elfi only squinting her eyes slightly and eluded the provocation. On the other hand, Dionis had the expression which seems a bit unpleasant on his face as averted his eyes from Elfi.

Then fake and disgusting smiles are directed at me.

"You, too. It's been a while, wasn't it?"(Dionis)

".....What?"(Iori)

"You do not need to pretend ignorance, you know. Because I've known all the events that had occurred in that basement"(Dionis)

With those kinds of smiling face which are directed to an old friend, Dionis said.

"——Long time no see, Amatsu"(Dionis)

.....I see.

Probably at the underground of Olivia's mansion back then. Those eyes that made off water actually was the magic that used by Dionis.

"That woman, Olivia's was showing some strange movement, that's why I was monitoring her tentatively and I was surprised that you to appear there too, you know"(Dionis)

Olivia was manipulating the demons and was going to subjugate the labyrinth. Does it mean that we were reflected in the magic that Dionis use to monitoring her?

"Those wound that I inflicted on you is completely nowhere to be seen, and your appearance is different from what it used to be. Yeah, well, it seems that Ortega's plan seems to go out to an unfortunate result, huh"(Dionis)

".....It was Ortega plan?"(Iori)

"Oops. It's all right, you don't have to worry about it"(Dionis)

After I made a slip out of my tongue, Dionis suppresses his mouth while smiling. From his gesture and attitude, I can't feel that he wasn't surprised that I was alive. A reaction of the level which met an unexpected person again.

Dionis says to dubious me while spreading his hands.

"I'm glad to see you again, Amatsu"(Dionis)

".....Aah"(Iori)

On the other hand, I have no choice but to agree.

"Me too, Dionis. I always wanted to meet you, too"(Iori)

How I'm going to make you suffer.

How I'm going to make you regret that you had betrayed me from the bottom of your heart.

How am I going to make you apologise for every wrong that you had done to me.



Then,

"I have been thought about how I'm going to kill you all the time"(Iori)

A revenge target who came over nonchalantly. There's no such fine blessing as this for me.

"I don't know what is your intention for go out here, but it saved me a lot of trouble because I will deliver the grudge of my subordinates right here, right now"(Elfi)

Elfi also stepped forward while saying so. Her magical power was overflow from her whole body as she got ready for the battle.

"Revenge and vengeance? Pardon me, but I'm not interested in such kind of thing because I just came to correct some mistake"(Dionis)

With a tone that admonished a naughty child.

"It is said that'Amatsu is the strongest Hero'or what being told by the human, right. It's the mistake at which I can't laugh at all, isn't it? You are the strongest, huh. After having some thought, I'd like to correct those mistakes. Then, I'm gonna crush you and become the strongest myself!"(Dionis)

Dionis shouts so while completely erase those fake smiles of his before replaced by a distorted smile that filled with malicious intent.

Thus, Dionis also entered the battle posture while floating. By his signal, neighbouring demonic beings begin to move again.

It's a little troublesome to fight against Dionis and the demonic beings at the same time but it was depending upon the way he fights. As for the fellow combat power, I have grasped it from thirty years ago.

It is time to say that the battle might begins at any moment as we have been facing each other.

"Daddy.....Daddy....."(Little Girl)

"———!?"(Iori)

At such timing, the voice of the girl who clung to her father's bodies from my back came into my ears. A tense atmosphere was scattered by the presence of

a girl who lost her father. I was completely forgotten about her cause by the presence of Dionis.

"——Are you concern about her?"(Dionis)

At the same time, I could see Dionis face sharply distorted.

"AHahahA!!"(Dionis)

Still floating in the air, Dionis raises overhead. While in such height, there are numerous water spheres was formed around him.

Instantly after that, Dionis shook his arms vigorously with a grin on his face.

"———!?"(Iori)

A countless of water bullet is poured down like a rain and the aim of all those water bullets was not for us but for a girl who kept kneeling and weeping.

I don't even have time to make a decision as I instinctively pick up the girl and starts running from that place.

".....Tsk"(Iori)

What are you doing, me?

Dionis is not some opponent who I can fight while protecting someone.

"Uwaaa....."(Little girl)

The girl is crying in my arm.

She will get in the way of the fight.

I should have abandoned her.

——The girl was crying?

".....!?"

Why did I help this girl earlier?

Is she even useful for revenge?

Would she become a fighting force to kill Dionis?

No, she won't.

Because it's impossible for her to do so.

Then, I should throw her away right now.

".....Why?"(Iori)

I grind my teeth.

As I do not understand my unconscious self.

Because there was no reason for me to protect the girl. I should just cut her down rather than having her experienced more gruesome death.

And yet, I— —

"You are gentle as ever, aren't you? But there I wonder if there such leeway for you to do so?"(Dionis)

"!?"(Iori)

My self-absorption was interrupted by the voice of Dionis that contain with ridicule before an explosion happens on my back.

"Gah— —!?"(Iori)

My back being hit by a shock that almost blown off my consciousness. Biting my lips, I managed to keep my consciousness somehow.

"Hey! If you do not do your best, that child will die, you know?"(Dionis)

Thus, I slip through the side of the demonic beings that stand in my way while using them take my distance. Those demonic beings were being swallowed by the destruction which was run after me without mercy, too.

The remains of the demonic are scattered as they were caught up by the continuous explosion. Without paying any attention to it, Dionis annoying laughter could be heard from behind.

"Ah.....!"(Little girl)

As the little girl scream.

The destruction befalls to the place where the corpse of the man was. Needless to say, the man body has not retained its original form anymore.

"Dada.....addy, daddy, uwaaaah!!"(Little Girl)

The girl has seen the spectacle while being held by me while screaming and rampaging in my arms. In such behaviour, it would be impossible for me to cope with the water bullet.

".....ah"(Little Girl)

I poured my magical power into the girl's head and thrown her consciousness. She lost her strength and fell asleep on my arm.

.....Not to lose her consciousness, but to abandon it.

"You have become really weak, Amatsu. Having a hard time just from protecting a girl from this level of attack"(Dionis)

Simultaneously at time Dionis was mocking and shooting more water bullet at me.

"——"Demon Eyes • Complete Destruction Explosion""(Elfi)

While beating the water bullet, in the same way, the demon eyes of the Elfi which had accumulated the magical power exploded. As for we were moved to another place, the attack of Elfi has swallowed the laughing Dionis.

It's her highest possible single blow in the state where she still wearing the disguise magic item on.

The crimson flash covers the sight and the blast from that blows was shaking the ground.

"How is it.....!?"(Elfi)

Simultaneously when Elfi muttered that.

".....Haaah"(Dionis)

The smoke that causes the explosion disappeared and an intact Dionis appeared. I can see that the water barrier is covering his body.

Did he completely offset the demon eye of Elfi?

"Say, Elfisuzaku. Elfisuzaku Giraldo. I wonder if you really think that you can even damage me with such level of attack? Well, if it so, then you have made a fool of me, don't you think? Is that demon eyes of yours gone rotted?"(Dionis)

".....So, its lack of firepower"(Elfi)

With bitter expressions, Elfi takes distance from Dionis. And, it was time to take off the 'Bracelet of Disguise'

A slight frustrated, Dionis snap his fingers.

"Wha.....!?"(Elfi)

"Elfi.....?"(Iori)

Just after that, Elfi had an agonising expression on her face before she suddenly kneeled down on her knee. When observing it, there's a sword was stabbed deeply in her right thigh. There should enough distance between Dionis and her, besides there were no any weapons in the first place.

I can't understand what Dionis just did.

"Look Amatsu. Your friend is in a pinch, but don't you need to help her? Or are you going to abandon her because she a Mazoku?"(Dionis)

As Dionis tries to release water bullets towards Elfi who kneeled down and stopped moving.

".....!?"

While holding the girl, I slip my other hand into my pouch and grab a magic stone.

It's when I was going to stop the attack of Dionis using the "Magic Break".

"NOO! You're the target, Iori!"(Elfi)

Simultaneously with Elfi's screams, Dionis snapped his fingers.

It was when he still turning his back at my direction, the water bullets floating in the air are fired towards me.

"————"

I throw the magic stone while leaping back to fall down.

As soon as the water bullet and the magic stone came into contact, the "Magic Break" was activated and jumping alone won't get me out from the blast range. Thus, I was being hit by a burning blast.

"Ka, ha.....h"(Iori)

My breath stopped as I being slammed to the ground while my burned skin gradually to aches. Because I was protecting the girl, it wasn't possible for me to

successfully defended myself.

In a somewhat blurred sight, I grasp the figure of Dionis somehow.

"It regrettable but you don't have time to rest, you know?"(Dionis)

In the sight which becomes blurred with pain, it was visible that Dionis was going to use magic and it isn't possible for me to dodge it at such timing.

.....The only way to overcome this is by using the degraded version of "Magic Break Suppression". Plus it will be impossible to counterbalancing such power.

It is the time when I prepared to receive the damage.

"——HaAaaah!"(Elfi)

Elfi which has pulled up the sword from her thigh has sprung upon Dionis.

——"Demon arm•Rupture Break"——

As the five magical claws going to hit Dionis. The target of the water bullet of Dionis changed to Elfi. That ends up with the nail to collided with the water bullet that creates an extreme explosion.

"Tsk....."(Dionis)

"Ugh.....!"(Elfi)

As both of them are thrown by the blast. Elfi regains her balance in the air before withdrew to us.

".....Are you alright, Elfi?"(Iori)

"Somehow"(Elfi)

The wound on her thigh has already clogged because all except her arm and face is an alter ego body. Moreover, she has mentioned to me before that she was able to reconstruct it with magical powers.

"That water ogre status is different from the previous Demon Lord, and even if he is corrupted, he still the party member of the former hero"(Elfi)

"He is not an opponent who I can win if I don't fight with my full strength"  
(Iori)

Unless Elfi removes the'Bracelet of Disguise', there is not the chance of victory

except I do something with the girl in my arm.

However.....

Either if he has already perceived that, a harsh voice echo.

"Say, Amatsu. Why don't you just get rid of that child? You can not fight properly because of her, right?"(Dionis)

".....It is not necessary because I can fight plenty even in this state"(Iori)

It's just a bluff.

He is not the opponent who I can win in a situation where I unable to put out my full strength.

"Then, I'll tell you what"(Dionis)

Dionis blows out a sigh while fumbling his brown hair in a circle with his finger.

He scowled and told me as if he were amazed.

"What the hell are you, a fool?"(Dionis)

".....What did you say?"(Iori)

"Though you were betrayed so severely, do you still help another person? Though thirty years passed, you haven't grown at all"(Dionis)

".....You're wrong"(Iori)

It is different.

Absolutely different.

I don't help anyone.

I already abandoned such optimistic thought.

I have decided to use anything I can for sake of my revenge.

"Then, why don't you abandon that child?"(Dionis)

".....Because"(Iori)

That's right.

Why did I not abandoning this girl in this circumstance?

Though I understand when she would only become a drag.

Why———

"Iori do not listen to that"(Elfi)

My reasoning is interrupted as Elfi's hand was hitting my shoulder.

"There is no worth to hear the ravings of a traitor. What are you seriously doing you moron"(Elfi)

".....Ah, right"(Iori)

"Don't lose your composure, just fix your eyes on the enemy. Just look forward"(Elfi)

I shake my head and abandon those unnecessary thoughts because of it is a suicide act to hesitated on the battlefield.

"You should hold that child and deal with it as much as possible, while I keep his offensive out and in that gap——"(Elfi)

"Oh, I'm sorry, Be • Cau • Se, that would be impossible!"(Dionis)

Dionis swung down his hand while interrupting our talk.

Before a lot of water bullets being released once again.

"———!?"

Elfi shoots it down with her Demon Eye while I defend us using the "Magic Break Suppression".

But Dionis will not slacken his attack.

Knowing that there's no escape, he was aiming at me who hold the girl. I have been forcibly driven into a defensive fight and I don't even have time to drink the potions that caused my magical power and physical strength are gradually being scrapped. Moreover, removing the "Bracelet of Disguise" won't make any difference for Elfi too.

Before long.

"——Gah!?"(Elfi)

"Kuh!?"(Iori)



The defence was broken and the water bullet burst up in front that causes me to be blown away by the impact and roll on the ground.

Elfi also on her knees while breathing a rough breath.

"Are you kidding me~? Hey, hey for a former brave and a former demon king to be this weak. What kind of joke is this? That would be a problem, don't you think? Moreover, I have been preparing a variety of thing too"(Dionis)

Dionis raises his arm.

"I'm not gonna kill you yet. First of all, I killed that girl in front both of you before I'll torment both of you thoroughly, okay?"(Dionis)

Thus, the water bullet is given off———.

"——We won't have time to.....!"(Elfi)

Suddenly, a barrier is arisen to surround us.



I saw a woman who had her red hair swayed on shoulders with a rough breath. Behind her, there are several armed soldiers.

The barrier that she had created have saved our lives———

".....Karen-san"(Iori)

That reminds me of something from back then.

Once, there was a man who helped us in a predicament. A red-haired man with a tender heart.

"Sorry for being late"(Karen)

I was helped again by the woman with the glimpse of Gouache.

"....."

Dionis shot off his water bullet as he knit his brow in discomfort. Following that, a succession of explosions occurred after it hit the barrier that developed in front of me. The barrier is creaking and the crack spreads before long.

Still.

"———"

Karen has developed a new barrier faster than the spreading of the destruction. Thus, another barrier appeared from above of the cracked one and it keeps repelling the water bullet.

Karen set up the barrier repeatedly over and over again while she finally exhaling out a rough breath.

Those exchange lasted for several minutes and before long Dionis has stopped his attack.

".....Ah, I know you. You're the woman whose father was murdered by becoming the *BoriBori* munch for those demonic beings by your own neighbouring Lords, right? Actually, I'm an acquainted of your father, you know. As for sake of our friendship. If you solve the barrier and disappear right before my eyes right now, I will overlook this?"(Dionis)

Dionis bloodlust is transmitted through the barrier that caused the shiver runs through the soldiers which were waiting behind Karen.

As for Karen which has been directed the bloodthirstiness directly, she was trembling and shuddering.

"..... I refuse"(Karen)

But Karen answered it in a trembling voice.

".....What was that?"(Dionis)

"As for me, the head of Rayford house——Karen Rayford. It was absolutely unforgivable act for damaging the territory and hurting the population of the fief along with my important guest"(Karen)

I saw the figure of the Gouache was clearly overlapped on her back.

""It's my mission to protect what my parents left behind". Is was something like that, isn't it? Oh well, it's rather cruel, isn't it? To stick with the things left behind by the dead. I hate people like you who don't know their own standing the most. Therefore, just get lost already human"(Dionis)

"I won't step aside. No matter what you say, I will protect this territory"  
(Karen)

"....."(Dionis)

Dionis closes his eye and says nothing.

Before he suddenly, "Ah, that's right" while clap his hands together.

"You wanted to protect this territory and its people, are not you?" (Dionis)

".....!?" (Karen)

The expression of Dionis is distorted into ugliness that caused Karen breathing to be taken away after hearing those evil phases.

"If so, shall I do it this way?" (Dionis)

As soon as I thought that the floating Dionis would be landed on the roof of a private house, he made a swift big leap towards the labyrinth direction.

There's a big pedestal had been installed ahead of that.

".....That's impossible" (Karen)

There an orange stone of a person's head was placed on its pedestal and Dionis destroyed the pedestal and took the stone on it.

"——This, it's called as the 'Keystone', wasn't it?

A magic item that is necessary to seal the labyrinth, right? Then, I shall confiscate this. Though I could destroy such a barrier anytime, this thing is getting in my way, you know" (Dionis)

While *PonPon* playing with the stone like a handball,

"I wonder if you know it? That there are a lot of poisonous swamps in the Labyrinth of Death Swamp.

The poison from those swamps will kill everything, either it was living thing of plants they will wither and died" (Dionis)

Dionis declared it while combed his hair upward in dramatic gesture while gently smiling.

"——I shall discharge the swamp poison into this territory" (Dionis)



"If you don't like it, then you can come to the labyrinth to stop me. I think those two are right for the job, won't they?" (Dionis)

Unilaterally saying so, Dionis let a loud laughter before disappeared. What remained was the ugly scarred earth as if was devoured by the beast and the people who stand in dumb surprise.

".....Th-that's"(Karen)

The barrier which had spread over the sight has disappeared suddenly. At the same time, Karen who held her ground while shaking has collapsed on her knee before the soldiers rush up, but Karen commands them by her hand.

However, on her pale face, there's a sweat that resembles a bead appears on it.

".....Let's rescue and evacuate the residents"(Karen)

Karen was wobbling when she raised up before gave instructions with a pale appearance. Before the soldiers begin to move according to it

Soon after, we were treated by the healing magic.

At that time, I explaining the circumstances of the girl who was held by me before I entrust the soldier to take care of her.

I thought for while looking at the back of the soldiers that were leaving at a swift pace.

A girl who just lost her family in barely several hours. Witnessing the death and the site where her father corpse was being devastated while being exhibited in front of her very eyes.

What will become of the girl's mental state?

"——Hey, Iori"(Elfi)

Then, I came to my senses after being hit on my head softly. Then I turn around and noticed Elfi who was standing with a stern look on her face.

"I could not do my best, but you're being too troubled"(Elfi)

".....Ah, my bad"(Iori)

"Is it concerning the revenge target or is it.....that child?"(Elfi)

"....."(Iori)

I don't have a word to say because she had hit the mark.

"If a fight happens, the sacrifice will be made.  
You should know it well, right?"(Elfi)

".....That's not it, at that time, I....."(Iori)

Why didn't I abandon her?

".....nevermind. Anyway, let's go to Karen's place"(Iori)

"....."(Elfi)

Elfi did not pursue it further as she simply nodded "Got it" and followed me.  
I look nearby, but I don't see Karen figure.

Thus, I looked for her for a while before I spotted her who stood still on the back of the partially destroyed private house.

Then, I call out for her from behind.

"Thank you Karen-san, we were saved because of you"(Iori)

In returned, Karen nods and said"I'm glad you're safe"

But her face is pale while having a vacant eye.

".....Are you okay? You have a bad complexion"(Iori)

".....Eh? Yeah"(Karen)

While looking absent-mindedness up at the sky.

".....Karen-san?"(Iori)

"My house"(Karen)

In her feeble voice, Karen started to speak eloquently.

"We have been keeping the labyrinth seals for a long time and my dear father is really proud of it while my dear mother keep supporting him, and..... I wanted to be like that, too"(Karen)

"....."(Iori)

"Therefore .....after my dear father and mother are gone.....I had to seal the labyrinth properly"(Karen)

As Karen keeps her head down.

"Even so, the foundation of labyrinth itself the Keystone have been robbed.....! I, I have! I should have done my job properly!"(Karen)

Followed by Karen *GariGari* scratching her head.

"Karen-san....."(Iori)

To be obligated to protect the territory by her own. Karen was about to be crushed by such heavy responsibility.

"Although, I should protect the territory....."(Karen)

Having both her parents killed, then followed by the solving of the labyrinth seal after became a Lord. On top of that, being attacked by the Water Demon Lord. There is no way for her to be in a normal state of mind.

"Although, I.....I must seal the labyrinth, but I'm hopeless.....!"(Karen)

Did the things that held down by her start to overflow?

Tears overflow from the eyes of Karen like a rain.

"————"(Iori)

——A lots of weeping faces.

The appearance of her crying face while scratching her head. Though I'm supposed to have come here to say"I come for the reward for solving the problem with Olivia"

As I become conscious of it, I already seizing Karen hand that scratches her head.

".....Iori-san"(Karen)

I put my other hand on Karen's shoulder.

I fixed my eyes on Karen who had surprised after looking squarely in my eyes before I say.

"——You don't have to seal the labyrinth anymore"(Iori)

"Eh.....?"(Karen)

The words came out arbitrarily as I wasn't thinking about anything.

"Because we will defeat that Dionis——Water Demon Lord"(Iori)

"————"(Karen)

"So.....it's okay now"(Iori)

I declared it in a reassuring tone.

"B,but.....but that's too dangerous"(Karen)

"We are adventurers. A friend of mine has told me before that what are we if we won't do the'aventuring'itself, right?"(Iori)

"Iori-san....."(Karen)

"Leave the labyrinth to us and Karen-san should do what you can"(Iori)

"Why....."(Karen)

In a trembling voice, Karen was asked me.

"Why.....you are willing to go too far?"(Karen)

There is no answer.

I should just tell her something such as entering the labyrinth forsake of reward for solving the problem.

But why did I say such an unnecessary stuff?

".....I owes Gouache.....Besides, Karen saved me and I just want to return.....those favours, nothing more"(Iori)

I turned my back on Karen before leaving her after declaring such words.

Thus, I advance towards our destination without turning around.

We are heading to the Labyrinth of Death Swamp.

".....You're very enthusiastic, aren't you?"(Elfi)

Elfi who was walking next to me was saying so as if making fun of me.

"Obviously, because the revenge target is just ahead of this"(Iori)

I've mentioned the stuff that I don't need to say, but my purpose doesn't change.

It's revenge.

Just you wait there for me, Dionis.

Because I'm going to kill you.



## Chapter 14: Toward The Labyrinth Of Death Swamp

"Regarding the fight that we had with Dionis's back then, what do you think about it?"(Elfi)

"An endless attack that does not give the foe an opening. It's troublesome and if it's only that, there's a way to handle it"(Iori)

We had some discussion on the way to the labyrinth.

"Probably is not just that, won't it?"(Elfi)

"Aah\*" (Iori) TN Yeah\*

I know how Dionis fight really well.

That guy had a high level of basic combat techniques, such as the magic of water attributes, jujutsu and fencing. Therefore, depending on the situation, he can do both vanguard and rearguard.

"He got a solid way of fighting, unlike that playful personality of his, huh"(Elfi)

"That's how it is, albeit that fellow does not have an exceptionally good point while doesn't have any fatal bad point"(Iori) TN Jack of all trades, but master of none

Because there is no opening in his method of fighting other than when he displayed a great strength to the foe who is superior in ability. By look at it from another perspective, it means that he has no power to overturn against those who were higher ranked than him.

Even at the time when he was a companion, Dionis was only able to earn some time when opposing the higher-ranked foe.

That fellow would be defeated when the opponent has a protruding trump card even if he could win in terms of strength against such foe. Although he's powerful for the lower rank, he was vulnerable to a blow that above his total strength.

That is what he is.

"If he was the guy who was three decades ago, even the present us can win if

we fight him directly"(Iori)

Even Elfi alone, if she takes the distance and shoots the maximum firepower of her demon eyes, there will be the possibility of victory.

"However....."(Iori)

"The problem is, that it would be different from three decades ago, right"(Elfi)

From the barrage of water bullets in the previous fight, I could not even read the change in his ability. Because those tactics to merely scatter destruction won't show me what he is capable of.

But that magic that stuck a sword into Elfi tight from the state of the empty handed that he displayed back then. I was not able to be surmised what he did only by having a glimpse at it.

"Although we have fought together for several years, I have never seen Dionis uses such magic"(Iori)

".....If that is the case, I think that it is a trick which he learned in these three decades?"(Elfi)

"Elfi do you know what it is?"(Iori)

".....If the sword just is removed from the void space, I have some idea of it. But that was beyond my comprehension, to the extent which I cannot even be specified concerning it"(Elfi)

As Elfi says.

Either the sword was actually hidden by the concealing magic or it was being taken out from the storage magic. There are several means I come up with, yet I do not know which one it is.

"I was distracted by the water bullet earlier. Even if I can not identify it, I can deal with it if I use my demon eyes"(Elfi)

Elfi pointed out to her golden eyes while said that confidently. It is somewhat disturbing not to know what kind of attack it is, but we could dodge it if we wary from the start.

The way we fight will be the same as usual.

I will be the vanguard while Elfi becomes the rearguard.

The means to get through that water attack is already planned.

The remaining of my anxiety is that we must fight in his domain, but we can not afford to think any further. We are not accompanied by soldiers and we have no time to wait for support from outside, too. I have the knowledge of the labyrinth in my hand and I have anticipated every reasonable thing.

After that, I just need to avenge on Dionis.

Passing by the side of the pedestal of the 'Keystone' which was destroyed, we finally arrive at the entrance of the labyrinth. It's dark inside that make it impossible to observe its situation from outside.

"——Let's go"(Iori)

We stepped into the Labyrinth of Death Swamp.



It was said that the state of the Labyrinth of Death Swamp has changed, but the entrance was not much changed from before. There seemed to be no miasma at the entrance but the darkness extended deep inside.

"You were not good with darkness, right? Are you okay?"(Iori)

"You moron, let me make it clear to you. I only hate being alone in a dark and quiet place, that's all!"(Elfi)

"....."(Iori)

".....So, I am fine now"(Elfi)

We light up our surrounding with magic before we continue to go through the labyrinth look like a cavern.

Immediately after entering the labyrinth, Elfi took off the 'Bracelet of Disguised'

The magical power which is confined starts to overflow all at once. Just being next to her is enough to perceive her tremendous amount of magical power. Her magical power is increasing further just by retrieving the arms.

".....Poisonous swamp isn't it"(Iori)

After a while, I saw a purple swamp ahead. It is not so deep, but the environment is filled with purple smoke.

If it touched, the flesh will decay and the bones melt. It is not saved to inhale the fumes that were emitted by the swamp, too. It's a troublesome poisonous swamp.

However, we have taken measures against the poisoning in advance because I have bought several detoxification potions, and a 'Non-toxic necklace' that will stretch a small barrier which nullifies the poison itself simply by wearing it. Because I have worn the 'Non-toxic necklace', nothing will happen even if I inhale the fumes.

I stepped into the swamp while paying attention to my feet. A cold and slippery feel is being transmitted. Though the poison won't affect us, it still hard to move through this swamp.

".....It *NuchaNucha* sticky wet and feels unpleasant. I want to remove the alter ego body and move with my head and arms alone"(Elfi)

"Please stop that by all means"(Iori)

If she floats next to me with just her head and arms, I probably cut her by mistake at the time when we faced a surprise attack by the demonic being. Moreover, if there is something about to happen, she won't able to react swiftly if she does not have a body.

Besides, the Demon Lord of this labyrinth is Dionis. I cannot settle down even the swamp where nullified just by fitting the magic items.

"Elfi, probably there is a trap ahead. Can you sense something?"(Iori)

".....There's a dim magical power on the left and right of the walls. It's probably a traps"(Elfi)

Even though I keep an eye out, I can not perceive anything on the wall. Elfi carefully examining the place that has a faint of magical power and it's to the degree which I eventually able to notice its presence. It wouldn't be possible to see through such trap if you weren't an advanced level magician.

It's the moment when we about to proceed warily and reach the section of the trap. Then suddenly a soundless thin laser was fired from the left and the right of the walls.

"——!?"(Iori)

"Hmph"(Elfi)

The laser itself is not particularly powerful and can magic or with the Jade Longsword. It is to the extent where Elfi able to prevent it with her bare hand.

Underhandedly, the laser was aiming for the 'Detoxification necklace'. If it were destroyed, it means to die in the poisonous swamp.

Furthermore, the laser is fired at different times from various angles. Becoming aware in the first shot, it is the structure where the laser is shot from another place towards its specific direction. It presumably telling that the magic items might end up being destroyed if being too relaxed when able to evade it.

"I see. This kind of trap is certainly effective in darkness"(Elfi)

Elfi murmured as she was awed by it. It was stated even in the book which I read. However, it is would be fatal at the first sight but it is not so dangerous if you know the trick.

When we advance to the inner part, the miasma started drifting in the air. The light becomes unnecessary as the inside of the labyrinth is illuminated by the miasma.

"From now on, the nature of the poisonous swamp will change"(Iori)

"The effect which deteriorates the magic item, wasn't it?"(Elfi)

Of course not only is it toxic to the human body but beyond this point, the poison will also affecting magical power. If being contact with the poisonous swamp or the miasma for a long time, the magic item will stop working.

"The time limit is approximately five hours and we have to cross this poisoned swamp faster than that"(Iori)

Beyond our sight, there's a green swamp.  
In addition to that, the path width is narrowing.  
As it is in proportion to it, the swamp grows deeper.

The Imperial Army that came to the labyrinth seems to have been poisoned by walking through this narrowing path as it deteriorating their magic items.

At the moment when I set my foot in the green swamp.

"It's the demonic beings, lori!"(Elfi)

"Got it"(lori)

There's a flock of "Acid Hammer Snake" has sprung out from the swamp ahead. Following that, the "Toothy Bug" has falls scattered from the ceiling.

I cannot afford to pay attention to the demonic beings.

I lead us ahead while began to whack down those demonic beings.



The Onizoku had aligned themselves with the Maou forces in the past. However, they defected from the Maou forces as they could not keep up with its cruelty.

Thereafter, they were always in neutral position.

Known as 'Traitor' by the Maou forces and despise as 'Past Enemies' by the humans, as a result, the Onizoku was being chased off from the place to live and caused their number to decreased proportionately to it. In order to break down such circumstances, the Onizoku has decided to side with the human.

The representative of that Onizoku was Dionis Harberg.

The one who had a gentle tone and a refined appearance. He was adored as 'The man who became strongest by an effort' by the Onizoku.

"I will end this fight and make a world where my friends won't get hurt.....!"  
(Dionis)

Dionis had a strong feeling caring for his friends. I was been bought by such values and he often talked about such a wish even when he has joined our party.

However, as matter of fact, he was someone who looking down at others.

"Your readiness is not enough and from my point of view, I can only see the future where you die"(Dionis)

Sometimes he said such a thing while getting frustrated with me who was dragging him down. I remember that I being in a bad mood after Beltoga which is his subordinate agrees to it too. Still, in the middle of the fight, Dionis gradually accepted me——

"You are strong and you certainly are the strongest hero. If it were you Amatsu, I believe that you can make the world peaceful"(Dionis)

"I can't-do it alone, you know.....So Dionis, will you cooperate with me.....?"  
(Iori)

"Good grief.....aren't you always mentioned that to me every single day Amatsu. It is natural because you are already my important friend"(Dionis)

——I believed it so.



I slaughter the closing in demonic beings as I keep pushing to the depths of the labyrinth. There is no stratum in this labyrinth, but it is spread sideways. A half hour has passed since I entered the labyrinth. From the thickness of the miasma, I should have advanced to around a one-third of the labyrinth.

Before coming here, we have encountered a lots traps.

It is begun by the laser at the entrance, the pitfall that leads to the abyss, the bottomless swamp and there were various things such as concealed metastasis formation that leads to somewhere.

Because there is no magical power in the pitfall and the bottomless swamp, it cannot be perceived by Elfi. Taking advantage of the experience of dive in the labyrinth many times, I able to discover a trap without needing to perceived its magical power.

"Elfi, the demonic beings have been avoiding that place for a while now. Maybe it's a trap"(Iori)

"Got it"(Elfi)

In that way, we have been cooperating with each other while we keep pressing forward. The width of the road gets even narrower and I can barely walk in line with the petite Elfi.

In contrast, the demonic beings come successively from the front. If they come in great numbers, the rearguard won't function well as the vanguard would have been destroyed first. The reason why we are progressing without difficulty is that our individual strength is high.

When we walked for a while, the demon suddenly went out.

A large open room is visible in the front. It was a doughnut-shaped land in the room while was an enormous swamp of green colour on the centre.

"What the Imperial Army could reach is only up to this point. There a several of powerful demonic being of dragons class appears in this room"(Iori)

The imperial army which has taken time so far are unable to subdue the demonic being who was far ahead this point. The majority of them were killed by demonic being before they withdrew. In the process, half of them perished, and only a few were able to get out of the labyrinth.

"Can't we go through by ignoring the demonic beings?"(Elfi)

"When we enter the room, the demonic beings likely to put the water barrier at the entrance and you will be attacked while you're trying to break it"(Iori)

As for the demonic being which comes out, it was described that had a proudful huge body at a level that can become a Demon Lord elsewhere. I do not know whether we can run away from it even if we try to ignore it.

"I will be dealing with it by utilizing the magic stone as much as possible. It will fine as long it can be defeated by it. In preparation for when it was ineffective, Elfi please begins to prepare the demon eyes. But, if it seems negligible, we ignore it"(Iori)

"Umu, I got it. Iori does not act recklessly, okay"(Elfi)

"I know that"(Iori)

With Elfi, I walked into the open room.

But nothing happens.

I can see the passage to the other side. I thought that it would be great if there nothing occurs, but it happened at the time when we went ahead through some doughnut-shaped ground.



".....As expected, it won't letting us go through that easily, huh"(Iori)

The room vibrates.

The cloud of dust pours *ParaPara* lightly from a ceiling and the swamp in its centre rises greatly.

We ran and headed to the opposite aisle, but a barrier of water was stretched at the doorway after we ran through up to quarter of the distance.

'—————'

From the swamp, the enormous head revealed itself while purple droplets splashed from the swamp.

"Ewww, it got into my mouth.....and its bitter!"(Elfi)

"Then, shut your mouth, you moron"(Iori)

'—————'

What appeared was a huge squid.

The purple huge eyeball in the bottom on the body such as the triangular kite. Several tentacles which can pulverize a building with single blow grow from around its head.

".....It is a demonic being that I have not seen before. Do you know about it Elfi?"(Iori)

"It's the "Overlord Squid". It is a rare species whose majority was destroyed by human attacks. I ate it when I was a Maou, but it is awfully bad taste, you know"(Elfi)

Then, don't just randomly eat some rare species, could you?

'—————!!'

Although it might not have reacted to the word 'bad taste', the Overlord squid has been attacking us. I can see that its tentacles are falling from a multi-directional.

"Dodge it!"(Iori)

I depart from the falling point with full speed. Just after that, I was attacked

by vibration as it makes me difficult to stand. The tentacles are being swung down with the intention to come in pursuit.

"....."Magic Break"!"(Iori)

The magic stone which I threw has blown off its closely packed light green sucker tentacles into very small pieces.

'—————!!'

The Overlord Squid body is trembling. But then soon after, the foot which I blew off rapidly swells and begins to reproduction.

"I see, that's why the empire forces unable to defeat it.....!"(Iori)

"Iori, aim its eyeball! Despite how much you attack its tentacles, it will regenerate right away!"(Elfi)

".....Got it!"(Iori)

The remaining number of magic stones is twenty pieces.

How much can I save against this foe?

I glared at the huge eyes of the Overlord squid and grabbed the next magic stone.



At the eve of the final battle.

I, Lucifina, Dionis, Luser were gathered in one room.

"Say, Amatsu. What do you get there? A potion...that's?"(Dionis)

"It seems to be a portion that handed down by the Onizoku and I got it from Beltoga"(Iori)

"Ah, I have drunk it a couple of times, too. Because the effect is great, you should drink early"(Dionis)

In preparation for tomorrow, Dionis began to hasten me to drink the deadly poisoned potion that I receive from Beltoga. Unlike normal potions, it tasted strangely sweet, too. However, it drank it up to the end because it was something that I got from my friend.

".....How was it, Amatsu-sama?"(Beltoga)

"Nn? Ah.....how should I say, it got quite strange taste"(Iori)

"It is such a thing, you know. With this we are thoroughly prepared for tomorrow, right?"(Dionis)

"Yeah"(Lucifina)

"Yeah, no doubt"(Luser)

As Dionis blooms with a smile.

I didn't notice with the meaning of "thoroughly prepared" as Lucifina and Luser were nodding in the satisfactory mood.

"Well.....even if I say thoroughly prepared, some of the equipment that was supposed to arrive didn't seem to reach me, you know"(Iori)

For the final decisive battle, some equipment was supposed to arrive, but it does not arrive because there's interference of someone on the way. Among them, is included a considerably useful thing such as 'The Mortal Wound Substitution Gem'

"Ha, it might be the work of the Maou forces anyway. Probably, those fellows have become impatient"(Dionis)

".....Maybe you're right"(Iori)

Besides that, various problems overlap, such as information that should arrive does not arrive and the troops that should have arrived have not arrived yet. At that time, I thought, 'It might be the intervention work of the Maou forces'

After that, we reviewed the strategy and confirmed the opponent's military power.

"I think it's time to sleep in preparation for tomorrow"(Lucifina)

When all of those reviews are over, everyone is going to stand up at the words of Lucifina. I stopped them and asked them such a thing.

"If the battle is over and it becomes peace, do you have any dreams after that?"(Iori)

On the other hand,

"Ah? Not particularly. I'm going to do the magical research and after that, I go to see my little sister. Because it been a while since I last meet her"(Luser)

Lusers replied so bluntly.

".....As for me, I want to rest for a while. Because I was able to enjoy an interesting entertainment"(Lucifina)

Lucifina replied gently.

"Once come back, I have something I want to say to every one of the Onizoku. Then I would like to travel various places to make the discrimination disappears"(Dionis)

Dionis answered so.

There is no reason why I want to hear their answers.

I just wanted to ask.

"As for me———"(Iori)

To my words, the three answered as if they were talking back and forth.

"It would be nice if it were granted"(Lucifina, Dionis, Luser)



"——Now, be a grilled squid!"(Elfi)

The Overlord Squid becomes unable to make any moves because I crushed both eyes of its eyes before Elfi burst it with her demon eyes. Its head was burst open that end up scattering its flesh all over. While several of its tentacles were *BichiBichi* rushed and rampaging around.

Somehow, Elfi using her demon eyes to finish it all at once. On the other hand, the remaining of my magic stone has decreased to fourteen pieces.

"Iori, the barrier seems to have solved"(Elfi)

"Yeah"(Iori)

The barrier that's blocking the doorway disappeared that have to enable us to pass through it freely. About three hours passed after we entering the labyrinth. The remaining time is around two hours, but judging from the

intensity of the drifting miasma, there is little remain. I hurried collected only the huge demon core which rolled from the corpse of the Overlord Squid.

I scattering around the demonic beings while swallowing up a continuation type potion to restored my magical power and physical strength.

After a while, there was a small room.

"Probably there is a trap, be careful"(Iori)

"Umu\*" (Elfi) TN Got it\*

While being cautious, the entrance was blocked at the moment we enter the room.

As soon as I thought “was the room swaying around?” The ceiling falls vigorously.

"——!?" (Iori)

"Leave it to me!" (Elfi)

Elfi bends her body before swiftly jumped up.

"——Demon King Punch!" (Elfi)

A crack got in, and in the next moment it crumbled down before shattered into pieces.

"What kind of technique, is that?" (Iori)

"Huh? It's the punch that unleashes by the Demon King, you know. Anyway, let's get going Iori" (Elfi)

".....Sure" (Iori)

When the ceiling was destroyed, the entrance door which had been closed opened. The scenery seen from there changed completely from the previous cave. The floors are marbled stone pavement, sculptures on the walls and lights like chandeliers on the ceiling.

".....It makes me remembering the Demon King Castle" (Elfi)

Rather than a labyrinth, it looks more like a castle. However, the amount of the miasma which drifts contrary to the appearance has increased further.

There was no gimmick in the passage. Even the demonic beings do not come

out. After we advance for a while, there was an enormous door came into our sights. It was a red door that decorated with gold on the edge.

".....Here it is"(Elfi)

Needless to think, I understand it.

—There is a labyrinth core ahead.



I remembered that Dionis was saying this.

"—Without regret, I want to have a content death"(Dionis)

"What the hell is that. It's like a death flag"(Iori)

"Death flak.....? .....Look, I want to go to the netherworld if I'm dead, you see"  
(Dionis)

The netherworld.

It is the world after death.

In this world, there is a world after death, a netherworld. It is said that the person who reached content death without the regret goes there.

"What happens if you die of regret?"(Iori)

"I wonder.....? If it from the story that I heard before, the ones would melt and disappears into the magical power that drifting into the netherworld"  
(Dionis)

Accordingly, Dionis's said.

"I make the world that nobody can look down on someone else to reach my the content death"(Dionis)



*Gii* heavy sound echoed as the door opens. The chilly air drifted from the room that lies ahead. Similarly to that, the interior was decorated with a castle decoration.

The room is circular, the surrounding area is surrounded by beautiful water where there is a foothold right in the centre. The red carpet that continues to

the innermost part of the room. Beyond that is the throne that magic or with a bad sense of taste.

Looking at the person who sits down on that, I thought.

After being betrayed, I swore to my heart.

I will never let you have that content death of yours.  
I will kill you in regret and despair.

"——Hey, I was waiting for you"(Dionis)

Dionis said so while leisurely sitting on the throne.

## Chapter 15: Trampling Your Everything

In a large circular room.

There is a red and precious throne decorated by an excess of gold and jewels at the innermost part of the room.

The one who thinks that he has created such that expensive but tasteless thing, in reality, was no other than Dionis Herberg himself who had sat on such tasteless throne.

"It was surprisingly early. I assumed it was a questionable, whether you can win against that Overlord Squid or not judging from my battle experiences with you, though"(Dionis)

Even though the enemy has infiltrated into the deepest part, Dionis crosses his legs comfortable while making himself at ease having leeway with his attitude of resting his elbows on the throne armrest.

I pay my awareness to the whole room but there is no sign other than Dionis himself.

There seems to be no trap because Elfi shakes her neck while turning sideways.

"It's fine to be cautious, but there is nothing in this room, neither demonic beings nor traps. It would be disgusting and filthy if I'm going to let those demonic beings inside here, don't you agree? Moreover, I won't feel comfortable if there's a trap in my own room, you know"(Dionis)

"You're surprisingly calm albeit we have penetrated to the innermost region, aren't you"(Iori)

"It's obvious, because there's no more additional defence than me myself"(Dionis)

Dionis still doesn't even bothered to leave his seat albeit being glared by Elfi, in contrast, he distorts his lips while raising his jaws as if he were looked down on us.



He seems to have been very confident of being able to overwhelm us with our battle back then. It is convenient for us if he underestimate us. Because our plan was something like aims for an opening when he let his guard down.

"Iori"(Elfi)

"Yeah, according to plan"(Iori)

If there is no point in listening anymore, it is time to begin the battle.

"Whoa! Wait a minute! It's a rare opportunity for us having some proper talk, right? So, there's no need to rush"(Dionis) ".....Shut your trap, I have nothing to discuss with you bastard"(Iori)

"Don't say that, because there's something I want to show you, Amatsu"  
(Dionis)

Dionis snaps his finger.

Simultaneously with the dry sound echoing through the room, several crystals appeared around the throne. The transparent diamond crystal of the size of a whole person.

"———"

I was at a loss for words and the reason is that the numbers of people that are confined inside of the crystals were exceeding more than twenty of them. There are humans, demi-human, Mazoku and various other races.

All of them are women and none of them is wearing any clothes. The women who are exposing their bare skin in a state to have greatly spreading their hands and legs and they have no consciousness.

The sword was pierced deeply in their palm and ankle, and they were stuck in crystals like a specimen of insects. The look of pain and despair was stuck on every woman's face.

"What do you think? This is the specimen I collected in the last three decades and I always wanted to show it to you"(Dionis) "Hmph.....Quite a vulgar hobby, I am totally disgusted here"(Elfi)

"Aah, it's sickening"(Iori)

I agree with Elfi who grimacing her eyebrow and showed disgust expression. Dionis smiled wryly saying "That's cold" and moved his finger a bit.

Several of the floating crystals come out in front.

"That's mean, for all those troubles that I have been through to bring over your acquaintance" (Dionis)

".....What?" (Iori)

"Don't you recognize this?" (Dionis)

I turn my gaze to one of the crystals that came out before me. The fact that among those it is stuck was the same Onizoku as Dionis. Dark brown hair, dark skin and the forehead with two horns that were broken visible.

And I recognize that Onizoku.

"Sharley.....?" (Iori)

Sharley.

Besides, Dionis and Beltoga, she was the onizoku magician who was fighting alongside the human army. A meddlesome and was a strong-minded woman. She always scolded Dionis whenever they met and she was his childhood friend.

"Correct! Honestly Amatsu, it sounds like you remembered her" (Dionis)

"Were you, not a friend?" (Iori)

"Eh!? No way. I hate her, please stop with that kind of joke. I never regard such a small fry is a friend of mine" (Dionis) Then, Dionis snaps his finger.

The crystal containing the Sharley fell back. Instead, several crystals appear before me. All that was in it was from the Onizoku and everyone was seemed familiar to me.

"As for this child, they were longing for Amatsu who had treated them normally, even though you just a human? Aren't you glad? It was a heart touching reunions, wasn't it?" (Dionis) .....What is this?

Dionis snaps his finger again.

Then, a different crystal appeared.

"As for this child.....I wonder is it a bit difficult for you to recognise?"(Dionis)

"———"

The woman of features similar to a girl and the girl who hasn't reach her matured age yet.

A girl in their teens, a woman who grew big as a size of a girl.

A girl,

A woman.

A girl.

A woman.

A girl girl girl girl girl.

I faintly remembered their looks.

"You bastard——this....."(Iori)

"Do you don't remember it, yet? You dropped by when you were travelling through the empire. ——the "Lahm village" wasn't it?"(Dionis)

——There are Lahm villages around here and how it has become?

——It has been destroyed by the Mazoku for nearly three decades ago.

"Then.....it was your doing"(Iori)

Dionis snaps his finger.

Different crystal steps forward.

""Sheena village""(Dionis)

They are familiar

It looks familiar.

""Leos territory""(Dionis)

I remembered when I heard that.

I also remembered.

""Gurus village", "Settlements of demi-human in Cruz Mountain", " Arlene territory", " The Mazoku which you overlook at the Mount Peteros", " Buguel village", Hey, isn't it that child whom you helped "The Cellu mercenary group""

(Dionis)

The place that I went in the middle of my journey.

Therefore these were people who I encounter.

The people that I helped.

"———Hey, do you remember?"(Dionis)

Dionis is sneering at me.

"It's all the people we met on our journey, how nostalgic"(Dionis)

I remember.

The village and the territory which had been attacked by the Mazoku.

The mercenaries that fought together with us.

"After the incident of the Demon King castle, Lucifina and I got some spare time and we went on a journey to the places which we went on a trip with you and Luser. After conveying our betrayal and the death of Amatsu to them, we massacre every single one of them"(Dionis)

By the encounter with them, I have become stronger as I wanted to save them.

"Even though I told you that I massacre everyone, I only killed the man and plain-looking woman along with granny that doesn't have a chance to survive on their own later. While the woman who suits my taste will be turned into a specimen like this"(Dionis) Dionis said that in an entranced tone while stroking the surface of the floating crystal gracefully.

"I noticed it when I killed you, the face of a dying person who is betrayed by the person whom they believed is really fun to watch"(Dionis)

"Betrayal by Hero's companions and the death of the hero whom they believed. As for their dying faces when realises it, in the end, it was really unbearable to see. Amatsu, I wanted to show you too"(Dionis)

"All the places that I travelled was really unreasonable though——Do you understand? Amatsu"(Dionis)

I understand Dionis' intention.

If you express it in one word, it simply a harassment.

"You always saying 'I want to help! I want to save!' because in the end, those people whom we saved will borrow us their strength someday"(Dionis)

"Everyone, every single one of them has died in despair, you know. You always boasting those sense of justice of wanting to help while looking at us, didn't you?"(Dionis)

It's a denial of all the things I've done as a hero.

If you didn't have such an idea, they wouldn't have died. And, Dionis are saying that 'They are dead because of you'

"What's wrong? Say something. Have you been deeply moved by the reunion?"(Dionis)

"Just kidding"(Dionis)

"Hey, how do you feel! Hey, Amatsu!!"(Dionis)

"Ahahahahaha!! Tell me!! How do you feel now!?

The thing that you wanted to do and what you have done!! Aaaaaaaaaaall of it!! The feeling that was trampled by me and Lucifina who was your FRIENDS!?"(Dionis)

Being betrayed, ridiculed and killed.

I intended to hate Dionis more than everything.

"Hey, hey! Please tell me, directly to me!! How do you feel now that you know that everything you did was meaningless?"(Dionis) However, it changes my mind.

Because there is no limit to hatred.

"Ahahahahahaha!! Hey, hey! Now, what kind of————"(Dionis) I run through the ground while using the strengthening and accelerate toward Dionis who is sitting on the throne.

I swung my sword upon Dionis with the fastest blow I could muster out in the present state.

".....Tsk"(Dionis)

In respond to repel the blade. Dionis pulled out the sword he had at hand to receive my blade.

".....I guess there's no common sense to attack people while they're talking, right?"(Dionis)

"I never get the common sense of you bastard"(Iori)

"It seems that you need some discipline.....aren't you!"(Dionis)

".....!?"(Iori)

By the competition of the blade, I easily being outmatched. The pursuit comes to the place where I was thrown. The spark was scattered in continuously corresponding with the clashing of blades.

As expected, the current me certainly being overwhelmed even if I use the reinforcement magic.

".....!?"(Iori)

"Such coward swordsmanship!"(Dionis)

My balance is broke at the same time as I being pushed back.

Dionis faces distorted in the response of my misfortune that followed by a swung from his sword.

"———!"(Iori)

Then, Elfi's demon eye burst. The flash of the Crimson blinks and explodes. That made the water surrounding the room to shakes and vigorously splashes up.

Just before that, I pretended to collapse while jumped back away and dodge the explosion.

".....Elfisuzaku!"(Dionis)

The explosion haze was torn up as Dionis appeared. He approximately unhurt while only his clothes are dirty. His expression is distorted in anger as he glares at Elfi.

"It is nice to have a pleasure to say something idiotic, but don't forget about me"(Elfi)

"Hah.....is it the revenge for your subordinate?Anyway, you came here to get your body back, right? You are also surprisingly sly yourself to use Amatsu who lost his power, ain't you?"(Dionis) When Dionis snap his fingers, the floating crystals disappeared.

"Hey, Amatsu. You really don't grow up, do you? Because you were betrayed by humans and demi-humans, are this time by a Mazoku? Though you were betrayed so severely, I wonder why you can still make friends? The other party is a Mazoku, moreover, she was the former demon kings, you know? I can hardly understand why you can believe such a person's words. Can't you even think for your self that if you lost your worth, you'll be betrayed and killed again?"(Dionis)

Dionis flimsily and fluently turning his tongue as he spouting such words.

Betrayed and killed again?

I wonder why I have not thought about it.

"Because I've decided it"(Iori)

It's hard for me to finish my revenge alone. That's why I have joined forces with Elfi while accepting the risk of being betrayed by her.

"That, I absolutely take revenge on you"(Iori)

"Oh, is that so"(Dionis)

At that time, Dionis finally lifted his hips from the throne.

"You seemed unable to comprehend who is right before you, don't you?"  
(Dionis)

Dionis laughs as he rises up.

"I, the Demon King forces "Water Demon Lord" and the strongest Onizoku "Mizu Oni\*""(Dionis) TN Water Ogre

Innumerable water bullets are developed.

"Let me hear it once again for several minutes later. On earth, who's is the ones that you going to avenge? HAH!!"(Dionis)

## Chapter 16: Tearing Off The Mockery

The battle began.

As the water bullet that deployed around the throne is swept all at once at the signal of Dionis. Instantly after signalling to Elfi through a gaze, I used, “acceleration” and “reinforcement” at the same time to evade it.

The water splash landed on the ground before it splattered as it explodes.

"——Demon Eyes • Complete Destruction Explosion"(Elfi)

Elfi repeatedly fired her demon eyes while lightly dodging the water bullet with her superhuman physical ability.

Hence, a small explosion shelling Dionis continuously.

"I told you before, but do you think that you can kill me with this kind of childish play attack?"(Dionis)

"——!?"(Elfi)

A burst of complete destruction detonates ahead of Elfi’s gaze grasped by Dionis who was laughing while sarcastically evading the almost no-time attacks. He dodges it having margin after verifying where Elfi’s line of sight is directed.

Aah, I know that you can do that much.

That’s why, beyond the place where Dionis headed too.

I’ve shot my lightning magic directing that very spot.

"With such a degree———"(Dionis)

He deals the approaching lightning attack with the water bullets while snorting his nose. At that moments, Elfi struck her demon eyes upon Dionis who stopped moving. Furthermore, it was a powerful explosion of magnitude and scale that greater than previously———

"..... I see, of course, it won’t end that simple, isn’t it?"(Iori)

The explosion was split open and vanished. Dionis who had put water on the blade of his sword is swung it down while staring at my direction.



"A cliched attack and obvious coordination. Ha—a~ Geez, it makes me disappointed, you know. I thought you came here with some plans but you have seriously disappointed my expectations"(Dionis) Dionis complains it while one-handedly brush up his hair. He exhaled a sigh and gave off a deliberately depressed expression.

"Although, it's really painful to me who seems to be bullying the weak, but it will be fine because I had to fulfil my role as the Water Demon Lord, right?"  
(Dionis)

".....He coming!"(Elfi)

Dionis leapt as he comes down to me while holding a sword.

"It is a standard strategy to start with the weak first, right?"(Dionis)

".....Tsk"(Iori)

I unleash my lightning magic with increased power. The sparks glide in the ground like a snake that seems was about to coil around the approaching Dionis.

"It's different from those days, Amatsu"(Dionis)

".....!"(Iori)

Immediately before that happens, his body is covered with transparent water abruptly. With that alone, the sparks which had hit the body of Dionis has dispersed.

"Its a pure water.....!"(Iori)

The pure water containing no impurities that can conduct lightning. The content that I learned in the science classes of the original world, it was the same in this world.

The water attribute magic used by a highly skilled magician creates pure water and it is possible to repel the lightning attribute magic which should be its weak point.

"I do not know what you were doing during this thirty years, but I was growing up, you know. Leaving that empty-headed of yours as it is, I'm different from you who deteriorated!!"(Dionis) ".....Guuh!"(Iori)

I barely catch the water-clad swords that Dionis gives off. It was the body which I strengthened to several folds, but I was retreated by just catching that single blow.

Without using any magic, the onizoku demonstrates several times the power of humans. Dionis is someone with lower muscle strength side among the onizoku, however, it was something impossible for the current me to catch such blow.

As is expected, it is troublesome.

"——o you won't!!"(Dionis)

Dionis approaching and pursuit me who broke my posture.

Then, the Elfi which accumulated her magical power in the rear has forced her way through in between and catches the blade of Dionis with her magical power wielding arm while unleashing a counter with her other free hand.

".....Speaking of which, you could also perform hand-to-hand combat too, weren't you?"(Dionis)

Dionis who jumps back as he avoids Elfi fists.

Not letting him escape Elfi throw her fist in succession.

In the meanwhile, I will rebuild my stance in that gap.

"HAAaaaaRH!!"(Elfi)

"——Jyuken\*" (Dionis) TN 柔剣=Soft/gentle sword

The fist of former Maou which easily shatters the ceiling. Was ward off by Dionis just by his sword. In counter, Dionis trying to mow down Elfi by aiming for her abdomen.

"——!!?"(Dionis)

Then, I thrust myself through this time.

The blade of the Jade longsword is barely caught that side blow slash. While Elfi Demon King Punch has was about to beat up Dionis who had his movement stopped.

At that time, Dionis used his other hand that did not hold the sword. The

jujutsu which is applied with the soft sword skill has enabled Dionis to catches that fist of Elfi with that hand.

"That was dangerous"(Dionis)

Dionis jumps back to the rear by using the momentum of the received fist.

"I won't let you escape!"(Elfi)

Elfi tries to shoot her demon eyes without giving him leeway to do so——、

"Oops"(Dionis)

A wall of water was created in front of him, to prevent it. It is not a clear pure water that he had produced until then, but it was a wall made of the muddy water.

"Elfisuzaku, in order to hit your foe, you need to point your line of sight at the target. With your line of sight interrupt, you can not do anything, don't you?"  
(Dionis)

Mocking laughter of Dionis is audible from the other side of the wall.

"Unnecessary resourcefulness.....!"(Elfi)

"Thanks Elfi, but do not go too far ahead"(Iori)

".....Aah\*" (Elfi) TN Yeah\*

"Don't be hasty, it is going well so far"(Iori)

It was favourable to us because that fellow loathes me.

The eyes of the Dionis was almost directed at Elfi since a little while ago. In the first stage, he understands that I'm weaker than Elfi. That fellow is waiting for Elfi to make an opening while not serious attacking me.

That's convenient.

The warier he toward Elfi, the easier it will be for me to move.

When the wall which had been blocked in front of us disappeared, Dionis already stood a little far away from where he was. With a sword in one hand, he has been turning his disdains gaze to me same as ever.

Right, I admit it.

For the present us, he considerably troublesome enemy. Therefore, the weakness has become obvious.

Disdain, arrogance and negligence toward the weakling, that fellow tends to play with the foe he could win. In the middle of our journey, it was his weakness that has been repeatedly noted by Lucifina. Fortunately, it doesn't seem to be healed even after three decades.

"Well, it's a passing point for Elfisuzaku. But, Amatsu, aren't you a little too weak?"(Dionis)

I don't make me happy even if I get a passing point from you while Elfi spits it out.

"Well, I've been thinking about it since our journey. You're not a big deal, you just a scum. Brave? Hero? Save the world? You are no more than just a conceited human. Luser or the other incompetent rascal is also the strongest magician at human discretion and humans don't understand where they stand, do they?"(Dionis) Dionis lifts his arm and sings an aria.

——"Torrent Snake"——

It is different from water bullets until then. A massive mass of water was formed, which formed a shape like a serpent.

"——!?"(Iori)

"Step back Iori!"(Elfi)

As it swells, the serpents are heading towards us vigorously.

I will definitely get drowned to death if being caught by that.

"Come to think of it, I haven't heard it yet. Hey, who are you going to avenge?"(Dionis)

Ignoring Dionis who laughs, I start running in order to escape from the serpent.

Elfi moved in the room by kicking and leaping through the wall while she evades it lightly.

But I can not do that kind of movement. The momentum of the water is fast,

and it is not possible to escape by just running. The means which I planned for getting through water bullets, should I use it here?

"....."Double acceleration""(Iori)

"Acceleration", which was used until then is multiplied further. With doubled agility, I evaded the serpent which approached me.

".....!"(Iori)

My whole body is creaking and it feels almost to burst up. There is a feeling that my muscle fibres are *BuchiBuchi* tearing. It is considerably more agile than usual with the 'Reinforcement Magic Bracelet', but the burden is also correspondingly increased.

It is the demerit of the bracelet.

".....However"(Iori)

The pain runs every time I move, but there is a feeling that it will be healed immediately afterwards. It is thanks to the continuation-type portion that I had swallowed before came here. I can reduce the burden of double acceleration due to sustained recovery effects.

"Ahahahaha! Do not push yourself, Amatsu! You won't be able to evade your inevitable death!!"(Dionis)

Leaving the serpent, I approaching Dionis which stood right before the throne. I'm going to slash him with just several seconds interval.

But,

"It seem that longsword of yours is already given up on you"(Dionis)

The single blow which is drawn out from double acceleration was caught. Furthermore, the sword is being grasped single-handedly.

"Speaking of which, it was me who taught you the soft sword after all. Well, I never thought that you have potential for it anyway!!"(Dionis)

"Guh!"(Iori)

It was the early stage of the after effects struck me.

My posture was not destroyed, but I flipped back.

With a laugh, Dionis comes after me.

".....Iori!"(Elfi)

"Oops!"(Dionis)

Followed by Dionis water serpent is attacking Elfi who is trying to support me. Simultaneous using his sword skills and magic. Elfi is hindered by the serpent while I'm cornered by a sword.

.....Elfi, is it isn't ready yet.

"Ahahahahahah! Hey, Amatsu! You will die if you do not try hard!?"(Dionis)

"!?"(Iori)

I endure the violent attack of Dionis patiently. As Dionis said, I was taught a soft sword by him.

Therefore I understand it.

This fellow possesses a high level of technique, but the attack that he uses right now is no more than a mere brute strength with intention of making fun of me.

It was the timing when my breath started to run out shortly after we exchange our blows.

"Dodg— —I'm going to blow it off with the maximum firepower of the demon eyes!"(Elfi)

In the distance, the scream of impatient Elfi was audible. According to that word, I can sense that she cladded in high magical power.

"———"

In response to that, the attention of Dionis has deviated to Elfi as he's going to develop defence magic with his hand to prevent the demon eyes.

"——HAAAAAh!!"(Iori)

I was about to cut him during those timing, but still, Dionis prevented the blow lightly. But it's not over yet, during that short interval, I swung down with all I got once more.

"I can deal something such as your degree even when I looking the other way, though"(Dionis)

While ridiculing me, Dionis was about to match the timing of my sword.

Aah.

He completely catches the timing of my sword accurately.

——I was waiting for this timing.

""Triple Acceleration"——!!"(Iori)

In the midst of swinging down the sword. The sword speed is rise sharply by the "Triple Acceleration". Dionis could not cope with the slash precisely because he was completely caught up by the timing from before.

"Ha!?"(Dionis)

The blade ruptured from the shoulder to the flank of Dionis. Fresh blood begins to spout out as Dionis leans back behind.

"Gu.....bu!?"(Iori)

My body seems to fall apart due to the effect of an excessive load of the triple acceleration. It's a damage that cannot be covered by a continuation-type portion.

".....Aaaaaargh!?"(Dionis)

I suppress the wound while directing toward the screaming Dionis to land more strike at him.

"That sword!!"(Dionis)

But this time it was being dealt with. As Dionis is following the sword speed of triple acceleration as well.

"AMAAaTSU!! Don't get cocky just because I was going easy on YOU!!"(Dionis)

Dionis rapture while his blood dripping.

The attack that demonstrated by him was full of "technique" unlike the previous. Although my physical surpassed him with the triple acceleration.

But it is just for now.

"Hey, Dionis. Try to look closely at that wound of yours, haven't you notice it yet?"(Iori)

".....Hah?"(Dionis)

The wound that hung from the shoulder to his flank.  
Before he knew it, the flesh around it was dyed in black.

"Wh.....What!?"(Dionis)

".....It's a poison of the swamp. You're the Water Demon Lord itself, so you should know it, right?"(Iori)

Entering directly in it was the purple poison of the swamp.

I took the poison and put it on the blade of a Jade longsword. The poison of the swamp shows the effect sufficiently even with only minor scratches.  
That poison works effectively, whether it is a Mazoku or Onizoku itself.

".....Do you think I have no countermeasures against it? This poison, I will detoxify immediately!"(Dionis)

"——As if I let you do that!!"(Iori)

In addition to triple acceleration, I rise the "Reinforcement" two-fold.

I put my all in a single strike to Dionis who tried to fall back.

"GuuuUh!?"(Dionis)

A single slash which I threw without minding that my bone might break.  
Dionis who unable to react to the strike was greatly thrown off to his rear.

"You fool.....!"(Dionis)

There is a burden on my body, so it impossible for me shorten our distance at once.

However, as planned.

With this, I was able to get enough distance••••••••

"——I have told you, didn't I? To don't forget about me, right"(Elfi)

The red-coloured gaze of Elfi who had to handle the serpent by her mere physical abilities has completely caught Dionis in her gaze.



"It is a Checkmate Dionis"(Iori)

"No way.....!?"(Dionis)

As being startled, Dionis turns his eyes to Elfi.

Elfi who already amass her magical power and was waiting.

"St, Stop————"(Dionis)

That desperate cry is also in vain.

"——"Demon Eyes • Complete Destruction Explosion"——"(Elfi) As a  
thunderous explosion swallowed Dionis.

## Chapter 17: —I Will Never

The Crimson light like hell fire covers the sights while the deafening roar has shakes the labyrinth while the hot wind rages.

After the explosion, a burnt smell filled the room that was concealed by the explosion haze.

".....Somehow, did it go well?"(Iori)

At the place away from the centre of an explosion, I murmured over the result of the strategy while breathing a rough breath.

The measures of utilizing Dionis carelessness and overconfidence——I was forced to bear a considerable burden, but it was successfully accomplished.

"....."(Iori)

I swallow a potion as I frowned on my broken right arm due to unreasonable body strengthening. After few seconds I take the potion, the pain of the damaged muscle on my right arm along with my whole body that caused by the fight gradually diminished.

"Are you okay? Iori!"(Elfi)

By the fact having blown off Dionis with the demon eyes, the serpent of water had that he cast has disappeared. Because there was no more hindrance, Elfi comes *ToteTote* running over.

"Aah, somehow"(Iori)

I had thought of a plan to defeat Dionis before entering the labyrinth.

That Elfi,'Loudly declare the triggering of the demon eyes', with that gap in mind I inflicted some damage to Dionis before Elfi give the decisive blow with her demon eyes.

Although Elfi 's declaration was intentional, it was a good thing that Dionis did not notice anything.

"The overlay of reinforcement magic.....it seemed going to cost a considerable burden on you"(Elfi)

"When I shook my sword with all my strength, my bones fractured at the same time. But I should be healed soon because I have drunk a potion"(Iori)

As expected, I might die if I overdo it in that state. It is possible to overlay again with the "Triple Acceleration", but I will definitely not do it again.

".....Did you hit him?"(Iori)

I pointed to the bursting smoke and questioned Elfi.

And Elfi shook her head and replied.

"If it is the life force of the Onizoku, it will be a degree of fatal injury. Probably, several limbs may be blown out"(Elfi) "Ah, that's relieving"(Iori)

My mind won't settled if he had been killed in that explosion.

Let me restore you lightly with the potion so you won't die too soon, then, shall I take my vengeance slowly and thoroughly?

Thanks to the potion, I feel that the damage on my body is healing. I'm glad that I have prepared a high-level potion beforehand.

"Now"(Iori)

Exactly at the time when the bursting smoke settled down and about to confirm how much damage has it inflict on Dionis while I'm going to collect the 'Keystone' for Karen.

It was the moment when I confirmed that my arm's bones had recovered and stood up.

"Io———!?"(Elfi)

The expression of Elfi who turned her gaze to the bursting smoke changed as she tries to shout something. But right after she just about to say something, the figure of Elfi that was right next to me has disappeared before my eyes.

"Elfiii——!?"(Iori)

No, it is different.

A little far behind from the place where she stood until then. Several swords were stuck in the abdomen of Elfi who was on her knee.

"What has hap.....!"(Iori)

She was attacked.

The moment when I was about to jump back to perceive what is going on.

".....Wha!?"(Iori)

The sword which came flying from the bursting smoke has scraped off the flesh on my left foot completely.

I lose my balance and fall down to the ground.

"Guh....."(Iori)

The first thing I felt was heat.

It's burning.

The heat that completely different from being warmed by a fire.

"Gu.....uuh"(Iori)

The moment when the wound which opened greatly was visually seen, the heat have turned into a severe pain. Those pains run through the nerve inside my body.

My bone was peeping out between the ripped flesh. Due to the intense pain, my sight was blinked in white many times.

It to the degree where I bear it by clenching my teeth and as I try to reach out to the potions———

"Ha.....GAaaAH.....!?"(Iori)

*woosh* wind cutting is audible.

Subsequently, my right hand that reaching the pouch was sewn to the ground by the sword that came flying. I can see that the blade has penetrated through the back of my hand.

Then I discovered that the sword which stuck in my hand shone for a moment before it disappeared without a trace.

The only thing left is my right hand with a hole in it.

"What.....is that?"(Iori)

".....I've forgotten what I did. It is a trade secret to the small fry who use a trick, don't you think?"(Dionis)

Dionis revealed himself from the bursting smoke.

"What.....!?"(Iori)

The demon eyes of Elfi should have hit him directly.  
Even though, his body had no damage from the explosion.

The wound that he was being cut open is already blocked.

It's ridiculous.

To be unscathed after receiving such blow, it was something impossible.....

".....I'm glad that I put this on"(Dionis)

What Dionis took out from his bosom has answered the question, it was a single bill. At the next moment, the bill burst into flames before turns crumble into ashes.

"The'Amulet of Substitution'and do you remember? Before getting onto the Demon King castle, it is a magic item that was supposed to be handed to you. I'm glad that I put it in my pocket for just in case"(Dionis)

"As for the article that wasn't able to come into my possession.....As expected, it was all your bastard doing, hah.....!"(Iori)

"That is probably you are a quite undesirable person, aren't you? Thanks to your lack of popularity, I have escaped my death"(Dionis)

Dionis waving his hand.

Shortly afterwards, a sword appeared behind him.  
It was like a self-evoked bullet that aiming toward me.

".....!?"(Iori)

I perform evasion movement by moving my body with the usable left hand and right foot. My left shoulder is gouged by the blade as I unable to completely dodge it.

"Ha.....Gah"(Iori)

My visibility is distorted as if I was intoxicated by the severe pain being gouged by the blade.

What the hell did he do.....!?

"There's nothing special to say regarding Amatsu's tricks.....That's right, but you're good Elfisuzaku"(Dionis)

The line of sight of Dionis is directed to Elfi.

Elfi who was supposed to have penetrated by multiple blades on the abdomen, but before I knew the sword had already disappeared.

It seems that she had not received any considerable damage, thanks to the alter ego body being penetrated.

"That demon eyes is a wonderful power. You are far inferior to your heydey.....Nevertheless, I was surprised as it cost me the untouched three decades insurance. I'm sorry for having to underestimate you"(Dionis)

".....Shut your trap"(Elfi)

"——So, let me show you all of my strength"(Dionis)

The atmosphere that wore by Dionis was changed.  
The wind is blowing in the room that should have been sealed.

"First of all, the first one. It is proof that I am the strongest of the Onizoku"  
(Dionis)

The forehead of Dionis——A change occurs at the corner which was covered with the bangs which could not be seen.

Sounds of something *BakiBaki* creaking resonate.  
Immediately after, the horn of Dionis has grown to the length of the blade of a knife.

"——Oni(Ogre) conversion. Temporarily increase the body's ability and magical power to the limit, it was the secret of the Onizoku. The technique which had been handed down in the Onizoku was belonged to the demon king army since eons ago. There was no one who could use this, and in the present Onizoku——Only I have reached this point!!"(Dionis)

The amount of magical power leaking from Dionis increases sharply.

I could see that his thin figure was growing bigger.

".....To use the secret art of the four heavenly kings the “Vajra”, huh?"(Elfi)

Elfi muttered with a fierce expression as if she had an idea of what it is.

"I’m not done yet"(Dionis)

The Dionis averted his eyes from Elfi and looked at me. Dionis lifted his haughtily face that filled with a detestable look.

"I didn’t like it all that much, you know. In that party, I was the only one who had not reached the pinnacle of magic"(Dionis) ".....what are?"(Iori)

"For you, you had unique magic the'Proof of Hero'and Lusers was able to use the “Lost Magic”, while Lucifina was a user of the “Mental Magic”. It was only me who did not have anything"(Dionis)

But it was a story about three decades ago, said Dionis in inducing tone.

"I keep repeating on my research by using a large number of humans as the experimental subject and in order for I to be able to use it, I have made additional arrangement to it!!.....I have struggled to reach this point. To reached the pinnacle of magic"(Dionis)

Magical power gathers around Dionis. Then, while being boastful, Dionis mentioned the name of the magic.

"——”Lost Magic•Blade Trigger”——"(Dionis)

At that instant.

More than thirty swords appeared around Dionis.

I finally noticed the true identity of the sword that appeared out of nowhere.

The sword was not concealed somewhere.

Dionis was•••••instantly creating the swords by his own magic.

"Lost magic.....you say"(Iori)

Lost Magic.

Along with the Mental Magic, it was a magic that is regarded as a magic that

has reached the pinnacle of magic. There a lot of magicians were aiming for the pinnacle of magic.

Dionis who has gain it exclaims.

"The present I have surpassed the former you!!"(Dionis)

At the same time, the floating sword is directed at me. At the same time Dionis shook down his arm, all swords were shot like bullets.

".....!?"(Iori)

"——Heal your wounds!"(Elfi)

Immediately after a myriad of blades glittered.

With a scream, Elfi jumped in front of me.

"——"Demon arm•Rupture Break""(Elfi)

Using the claws of magic, Elfi hits the storm of the sword. Whenever the arm of Elfi are shaken, multiple swords are bounced off and disappear as magical particles. Even one of the swords does not reach me in the series of onslaughts.

"Hmph, It's nothing like a barrage of water bullets"(Elfi)

".....Oh, do you think so?"(Dionis)

As Dionis is launched the newly created sword.

I saw the distorted look filled with malice of Dionis ahead of the sword-storm, and I understood it well.

——That is dangerous.

"Dodge it ElFiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii—!!"(Iori)

"!?"(Elfi)

"It's already too late, you idiot!!"(Dionis)

There are numerous swords came flying.

It was just before Elfi played it with her claw. All of it begins to emit ominous light all at once.

"——"Break Magic""(Dionis)



Joyous filled chanting of Dionis reached my ear.

Immediately after that.

All those swords have exploded while dyeing my sight in white.



"EL.....Fi.....!"(Iori)

I was blown away by the blast and rolling on the ground, I understood what happened.

That sword which Dionis has produced.

All of them are magic items.

The sword that contained magical power inside——So, naturally, he can explode it by using the “Break Magic”.

It was something irregular, to created such things as magic items by very own magical powers.

As the sword itself cannot sustain its magical power it will disappear in a few seconds later, still considering the power of “Break Magic”, it was atrocious enough.

"Uu.....Guh"(Elfi)

At the tip of my view, I saw the figure of Elfi who has suffered by a burn on her whole body. It is likely for her to collapse even she was on her knee right now.

"To be alive albeit receiving all those attacks, as expected from the former Maou!.....In comparison with that unshapeliness of the former brave, don't you think?"(Dionis)

"You bas.....tard"(Iori)

The almost uninjured Dionis was laugh while pointing at me.

"Ahahaha, Amatsu. Are you still going to fight?"(Dionis)

"It is na.....tural"(Iori)

"It's important to not give up, but sometimes it's important to see reality too,

don't you think so?"(Dionis)

Needless to say, the situation was the worst. I'm not yet healed from the wounds being ripped by the sword. Elfi was under considerable damage after getting caught up in the explosion.

.....What should I do.

How can I turn this situation over?

First of all, I can't move if I don't cure the wounds of my limbs.

Will Dionis even wait for that to happen?

.....It's impossible.

I could develop the "Il Atalaxia\*" as means of my safety. TN Magic Break/Damage Suppression

.....It unreasonable.

I have not enough strength to prevent lost magic.

Then, Elfi.....

No, it's impossible.

Elfi is still unable to move even if I intend to receive such explosion head on.

".....!!"(Iori)

"You know what, Amatsu. You guys are already defeated"(Dionis)

"DIONIS—.....!"(Iori)

"Ahahahahahahahah—!!"(Dionis)

Due to the effect of continuation-type potion, the wounds are healing little by little. Until my foot is at least heal by the effect, I should earn us some time.....!

"Amatsuu! I have a good suggestion, do you want to listen?"(Dionis)

".....What is it?"(Iori)

"While grovelling in the ground and licking the floor with upturned eyes, in apologies say'I have no calibre of a Hero, I'm just incompetence scum who can't even do anything without borrowing a 'Power', I might spare your life, you know?"(Dionis)

"Don't fuck with.....!"(Iori)

No.....wait.

This is a chance.

Let's pleased him while healing the wound in the meantime——

"Ga.....Aaargh!?"(Iori)

At the moment, a sword was stuck in my right leg. I roll on the ground due to the shock while scattering the blood all over.

"AhaHaHahAha"(Dionis)

Dionis loudly laughs while pointing at me and holding his belly.

"——To spare your life!? Why do you believe unconditionally what others say? I don't understand you"(Dionis)

".....!"(Iori)

"There is no worth to spare your live, however....."(Dionis)

But you're different, as Dionis turned his gaze to Elfi.

"——You who was the former Demon King are different"(Dionis)

".....What, are"(Elfi)

"I will make you a king demon if you cut down Amatsu and partner with me"  
(Dionis)

Elfi shouted back at the proposal.

"Don't.....be silly!"(Elfi)

"I obtained overwhelming power but this is not enough and I understood it in this fight. If it you, you deserve to join forces with me"(Dionis)

"Who.....with a bastard like you.....!"(Elfi)

"No, call it associate. With you, you see"(Dionis)

"Good grief!" right after a tone such as to persuade a disobedient child.

A sword has pierced Elfi chest.

"Ga.....buh!!"(Elfi)

"Me or Amatsu, I'll let you know which is the smartest one to partner with"  
(Dionis)

Dionis approaches the fallen Elfi.

What happened next are

It was one-sided violence that wasn't something to call a fight.



"Didn't you want to avenge Ortega? Actually, I wanted to kill Ortega, too"  
(Dionis)

First of all Elfi's eyes were being slashed.

Elfi groans as her demon eyes are being sealed.

"Although you're weak, you're so bossy. Most of all, I don't like it"(Dionis)

After that, Dionis slashed Elfi's body with a sword over and over again.

"As for those bunch in the Maou forces was laughing behind my back  
with 'The likes of Onizoku' I cannot forgive that. Therefore I will kill the demon  
king as I make the demonstration of my power to them. I'll make them regret it.  
.....But I do not want to be the next demon king because it is troublesome"  
(Dionis)

While a small knife is being stirred in the abdomen of Elfi.

"So if you cooperate with me, the seat of the demon king will be handed over  
to you. Elfisuzaku, Elfisuzaku Van • • • Giraldo"(Dionis)

Van.

That is the title given only to the demon king.

While *ZakuZaku* stabbing and gouging Elfi with a sword, Dionis whispers it  
repeatedly.

Become my associate.

"If you are willing to form an alliance with me, I'll treat your injuries  
immediately. I apologize for your subordinate whom I kill. Moreover, I have  
information related to your subordinate and I can tell you that"(Dionis)

He was messing around.

But if I try to help Elfi, that sword will come flying at me in no time. I really want to avoid any fatal injuries to occurs in the meantime.

I can not do anything because my wounds are barely being cured right now.....

"It's amazing, the eyeball which I cut has been already cured. So, this is the power of the highest rank Mazoku. It does not seem to be a lie to revive even if I kill you"(Dionis)

As Dionis said so, he cut both Elfi eyes again.

".....n!"(Elfi)

Elfi does not scream and only leaks a muffled voice.

"I have learned in the process of making slaves for the last three decades, you know. No matter how strong their will are, they can't win against the pain. They cannot fight against the fear of the death itself. For everyone, their own body was the most important thing after all"(Dionis)

On the other hand, Dionis is softly whispering to Elfi while tormenting her.

"There is nothing to be ashamed of, because everyone does it, and nobody will attack you even if you betray Amatsu"(Dionis) "....."(Elfi)

"I don't want to hurt you and everyone is the same, don't you think so?"  
(Dionis)

"....."(Elfi)

"I will end up endlessly tormenting you here, till I get you to the throne of the demon king. You ought to know which is the smartest choice, Elfisuzaku Van Giraldo. Do you not want to have this name once again?"(Dionis)

——So join hands with me.

How many times did Dionis whisper to Elfi?

Cut the eyes then pierced her whole body with a sword while stirred her internal organs with a blade.

Eventually, Elfi opened her mouth.

".....Really"(Elfi)

".....Hmm?"(Dionis)

"Are you really.....make me as the demon king?"(Elfi)

I heard Elfi said that in her feeble voice.

"————"(Iori)

My thoughts stopped.

"Of course, if you kill Amatsu that's lying over there with your own hands, I will acknowledge you as my associate"(Dionis) Elfi was released.

While suffering a wound in her whole body and having a roughening breath, Elfi took a glance at my direction.

Her slitted eyes are almost healed.

".....El...fi"(Iori)

"————"(Elfi)

"ELFI—.....!!"(Iori)

I call out to her.

But there is no reply.

"AHahahaha! Even though you have just been betrayed by us, but there is absolutely no improvement at all! It has been three decades has passed but you haven't understood it yet! Scum like you will be thrown away when you lost your value!!"(Dionis)

".....Ah....."(Iori)

Elfi stands up.

She's looking at me with her crimson eyes, her demon eyes are activated.

So, I'll be killed.

".....!"(Iori)

The risk was acceptable because I fully understood the possibility such as this very well.

But this.

However.....Elfi would be saved, will she?

If judging from the way of speaking of that fellow, it is true that he going to use Elfi.

If she going to be saved, then.....

Am I an Idiot.

Even if she survived in this place, the only thing waiting for her in the future is being killed after she being completely used.

Damn, what am I thinking?

I can not afford to die in such a place.

I have not fulfilled my revenge yet.

As for me.

Am I going to be betrayed and die again?

"Even for a fellow Avenger, it is strange that they get together. Amatsu, you wanted someone to lick your wound? That's why you believed her, right? Regrettable! As a result, you will be betrayed again!"(Dionis)

As his ridiculed echoes.

"Iori"(Elfi)

"———"(Iori)

"I can't end up in this place"(Elfi)

So, I'm going to die here.

It was the moment I thought so.

"——Nevertheless, I'd rather be dead than betray my friends"(Elfi)

"Hah.....?"(Dionis)

As Elfi was looking back swiftly. Beyond her line of sight, there is Dionis with a stupid expression of his.

Before the Crimson light blows off Dionis.

Elfi gets closer to the stunned me.

"That was such a terrible face, lori"(Elfi)

".....Elfi"(Iori)

"Didn't I told you?"(Elfi)

It was a gentle voice.

Elfi smiled thinly as she said.

"——I will never betray you"(Elfi)

".....Ah"(Iori)

I remembered it.

Words of Elfi during those exchanged at the Labyrinth of Hades.

——As long as you are my friend, I will not betray you.

"Don't fuck.....with me! Elfisuzaku! How dare you return my kindness with hostility!!"(Dionis)

The outcry of the wrath of being blown away Dionis echoes.

"I'll kill you.....! I will kill you!"(Dionis)

A magical power of Dionis began to gush out. His current amount of magical power is clear enough to make me realise that back then he was just playing around. Even if we were in perfect condition, we don't know if we could even win against that.

"As expected, with that single blow it won't be enough to beat that fellow"  
(Elfi)

Although she said that, Elfi's voice was strangely calm.

She looks back at me only once more time before return her gaze to Dionis.

Then, as she let out a sigh, she said.

"Escape from here lori"(Elfi)



## Chapter 18: The feelings I have forgotten

——Escape from here.

As Elfi harden her words.

Because right now, the way left for us is only withdrawing.  
That was understandable.

However, as for the ones who said it, I realized that she did not intend to escape herself.

".....What are you going to do, Elfi"(Iori)

"If both of us escaped from here, he'll follow us. Therefore it is necessary that either one of us remain here to earn some time"(Elfi)

".....So, are you saying that you are going to stay behind?"(Iori)

As for my body which unable to muster any strength, I still try to reach for Elfi to disagree with her. Suddenly, Elfi swiftly flipped her body vigorously before I can reach her.

".....!"(Iori)

There was countless of swords flew toward our direction. Before Elfi counter it by using the gravitational force of her demon eyes to knock it down to the ground.

"Hah! Discussion over this period!? Quite carefree, don't you think?"(Dionis)

Dionis who has lost his composure due of being deceived by Elfi were glaring at our direction, and while he doing so, he began to create countless swords surrounding us.

"Iori, escape quickly because I do not have much time"(Elfi)

".....What are you intended to do? You know what happens if you stay, right!"  
(Iori)

"Aah, I know"(Elfi)

Elfi nodded if it is not surprising as if it were natural to do so.

"But haven't you forgotten? That, I was the former demon king. Assuming, that I was killed, it possible for me to revive at the cost of times. So don't worry because I'm going to be fine"(Elfi)

The Mazoku which contained a huge magical power is able to be revived even if they are killed. That is what the reason why Elfi was sealed in the barrier.

However.....

"Reviving.....How long will it take?"(Iori)

"Well, If it is in my current state, I will be revived after 600 years. If I intend to break the seal, I guess it would take around 1000 of years, I think?"(Elfi)

Elfi said that with her usual tone like it was not something to be worried about.

"What? A Mazoku is original have a long lifespan. About several hundred years. But Iori, you are different from me. If you die, it's over for you"(Elfi)

It is over if I die.

Indeed, that's right. But being sealed is no better than death itself.

Elfi said it when we went outside the labyrinth.

——Because the inside of the seal is isolated from the world, it is pitch black. It was a place without light and sound.

She saying that she does not mind it so much in a blunt tone. But it was different because, at Karen's mansion, Elfi was saying.

——I don't want to.....I hate it, for being in the dark.....again.

——Please don't leave me alone.

That might have been Elfi true feeling because she has been trapped in a world without light and sound for a long time alone by herself, moreover, I can't imagine how painful it is for her.

"————"(Iori)

While trying to hide it, Elfi told me to leave.

Though, Elfi didn't frighten when she said that. but I was aware of her

trembling voice.

".....Do not be ridiculous, as if I will abandon you. Now, let's escape together with me!"(Iori)

"Don't spouting some absurd thing.....! I have told you that I don't have any time anymore! Leave now!"(Elfi)

"——Amatsu, please don't waste Elfisuzaku requests, could you?"(Dionis)

Dionis broke in our conversation in his cohesion tone.

"Anyway, I won't let you escape and there is no escape for Elfisuzaku either, you see"(Dionis)

*NitaNita* Sinister smile float as Dionis grasp one of the swords that he creates. While performing some movement as if to slash something.

"Because she has completely irritate me, that bitch does not even have enough physical strength to escape anymore!!"(Dionis)

".....!"(Elfi)

As I looked towards Elfi, I notice that her legs were trembling and was hardly moved since a while ago.

Damn.....!!

If I it thinks carefully, it was something easy to understand, but!

Despite it just an alter ego body, it should have a sense of pain too. She once said that it would consume the magical power every time she healed the wound. Moreover, she was just being tortured by Dionis a while ago, too.

Even just to stand, she barely.....!

"For Elfisuzaku who betrayed my sympathy, I will torture you completely like rags before I kill you"(Dionis)

".....Iori! I beg you, get away from here quickly.....!"(Elfi)

Then, Dionis snaps his finger.

At that instant, a barrier of water springs forth at the entrance.

"Yes, I was disappointed!"(Dionis)

".....!"(Iori)

Elfi shoots her demon eyes at the barrier but it just slightly cracked before it was completely repaired within a seconds.

"Gee, this stone is surprisingly convenient. Moreover, it is waste for humans"(Dionis)

"The Keystone.....!"(Iori)

Dionis playing with the Keystone in his hand. A magic item that strengthens and maintain the effectiveness of the barrier.

Our way of retreat was completely being cut off.

"Idiot.....! That's why I told you to escape quickly!"(Elfi)

"In the beginning, I have never considering of running away.....!"(Iori)

"Hee~ you are sweet! But, I never considering of letting you escape from here from the beginning either!!"(Dionis)

Thanks to a continuation-type portion, the wound on my leg have healed and it is possible for me to stand up.

As I intend to perform the counterattack by using the magic stone——

"!?"(Iori)

Dionis magic sword is being swept down and its numbers were exceeding 50 pieces of them, moreover, every single one of them is emitting an ominous light, and it blew up all at once before us as if it was trying broke through Elfi demon eyes.

""Il Atalaxia".....!"(Iori)

The shield which I built instantly pulverized before my sight was covered by light and the sound died away as my body drifts in the air.

"Kuh.....argh"(Iori)

My breathing stopped as I was flung against the ground like a brick. But it happens at the same time when I try to get up.

*Stab* as sudden shocks ran through my body.

"Ga.....argh!?"(Iori)

As four swords were pierced through my limbs and I'm stuck on the ground as the blade penetrates into the ground.

".....Argh..., "(Iori)

I've lost my voice as the cold sensation of iron penetrating through my body while the heat released by the wound simultaneously attack me.

It's cold.

Hot.

I can't breathe.

"It's a specially made sword with plenty of magical power and it will not disappear soon, you know"(Dionis)

I can see Elfi is collapsing at the edge of my sight. The reason why I was able to keep my consciousness that seemed to crumble away is that I was able to confirm the presence of Elfi.

".....El...fi..."(Iori)

I draw out the strength from my body in order to pull out the pierced sword. However, the four swords did even slightly budge. While the lukewarm blood which began to outflow.

"It's amazing that you can still worry about others. Are you worried about that slut?"(Dionis)

".....!"(Iori)

"If so, then please pull out the sword as soon as possible because I shall spare Elfisuzaku if you could stand up, how about that?"(Dionis)

".....hn!.....n!"(Iori)

"Okay, time out! It's regrettable, that I'm going to torture Elfisuzaku!!"(Dionis)

Dionis released the water attack toward the collapsed Elfi.

The water attack which was shot has thrown Elfi against the wall of the room and the following instant,

"Oh yeah! It's the right hand!!"(Dionis)

The right hand of the Elfi who was in the midair was struck by the sword that penetrates Elfi palm that has stitches her to the wall.

"Look at that! It goes steadily, you know!? Next one, it's the right foot!"  
(Dionis)

".....!"(Elfi)

"What's wrong, Amatsu! Your beloved Elfisuzaku is suffering! So, you must do your best!"(Dionis)

"You.....Bastard!!"(Iori)

Without regard to the ripped flesh, I mustered all the strength from my whole body as I try my hardest to pull out the sword. Regrettably, even if I clench my teeth, screams and strengthen my body with magical power, the sword does not budge an inch.

"Elfisuzaku, it seems Amatsu does not want to help you? He such a heartless guy, isn't he? Even though you vainly try to protect him with the cost of your own life! Well then, next is the left foot!"(Dionis)

"Gaha!"(Elfi)

"Finally, it's the left hand!! Ahahahaha! The former demon king specimen is finished!"(Dionis)

Elfi had her limbs sewn on the wall while the blood is *DakuDaku* gushing out and flowed from the arm which was not her alter ego body.

"Stop.....it"(Iori)

"If you want me to stop, you can go pull that sword! Why don't you pull it out?"(Dionis)

".....!"(Iori)

"Okay, then I continue it"(Dionis)

A sword is created and skewering the whole body of Elfi and she does not scream while only raises a muffled voice.

"It's just a sword-piercing without the sense of art, don't you think?"(Dionis)

While small sword like a knife appeared around Dionis. He begins to shoot

and pierces the abdomen of Elfi with it.

"Then, its going boom!"(Dionis)

"Gah.....!"(Elfi)

The knife which pierced Elfi has caused a small explosion that caused the abdomen of Elfi to burst open. Although the abdomen is a just an alter body, but there should be the sense of pain and Elfi should properly felt those pain of having her abdomen being blown off.

"AaaAaaaAaaARGH!!"(Iori)

Regrettably, the sword does not budge because my power is insufficient.

"AhaHaHAhahahahaha !!"(Dionis)

While Dionis mockery is audible.

"It's going to explode! Boom!"(Dionis)

".....!"(Elfi)

"It your own fault!! For not listen!! To what! I say!!"(Dionis)

The blades cut the cheek of Elfi after the sword blasts off.

Not satisfied with only that, Dionis pierced both her arms which are not an alter ego body with a small sword persistently over and over again.

"After all, Amatsu. If you don't have that borrowed power as a "Hero", you cannot do a thing"(Dionis)

The sword still does not budge even after I struggle to remove it.

"You did not make any special effort, nor did you do anything special. You simply happened to be summoned by a chance as a brave and simply obtained the power of a foul class. Which is not your own power or anything. So, if it ceases to exist, you will become an insignificant small fry"(Dionis)

While his sword inflicts a wound on Elfi.

"It's a masterpiece. To showing off with the power that you got from others and after it disappears, you have turned into such unsightly as this"(Dionis)

The sword still does not budge.

"You said it before, right? That you have lived a life that's just been swept away, hence I want to change myself in this world. Are you an idiiaiiiiiiot? You haven't changed at all. Just being swept and drunk with those borrowed power" (Dionis)

Elfi is being further wounded by the sword. Not be able to maintain the alter ego body, the noise had started running. Mercilessly, the sword keeps gouging Elfi.

What only I can do was just watching while being sewn on the ground.

"Generally, those dream that'I want to end the war and make the world peaceful'You were just influenced by what Lucifina was saying, right? Since you yourself, you never thought such an exaggerated thing by yourself, wasn't you?"(Dionis)

I could not refute.

I have already aware it.

I just longed for the words of Lucifina whom I admire.

"You simply was preoccupied because you were chosen as a "Brave" and it was no more than just a crappy hypocrisy. That's why you were betrayed. Because you didn't see anything! To save the world? Peace? Hey, say it again! It's your dream, isn't it?"(Dionis)

Because I thought that it was right.

Because I wanted to do something even if I was just being swept away.

As the mockery of Dionis echoes.

".....You're speechless, aren't you! Ahahahahahah!! You know your own unbecoming and dwarfness! You can't even say something excessive such as that!"(Dionis)

"....."(Iori)

"For a long time! I hate those sweet naive ideals of yours! Even though it was not your own power, those ideal was even not your own ideal!! To uphold it as your own, and it's so arrogant itself to save the world!"(Dionis)

"....."(Iori)



"Didn't you told me that you want to avoid your friend being hurt? That way of speaking is disgusting, it's as if that you were saying like I am inferior to you.....!"(Dionis)

Therefore.

"I will trample on your everything and it would be a nice place where you can see Elfisuzaku being defiled by me while you were crawling on the ground as it is. While I tearing off her clothes and exposes her bare naked before I violate her in front of you. For your beloved Elfi going through such a horrifying experience, it will be painful and frustrating, won't it? But regrettable! You could not do anything because you have no power!!"(Dionis)

.....That's right.

I have no power.

The power to save Elfi, too.

"Then, I'll kill you after I completely torture you. This is the end of your life who just being be swept away"(Dionis)

It was as Dionis said.

Both my power and ideal are borrowed from others because I'm merely being swept away and did not obtain it by myself.

"A.....ah"(Iori)

My strength keeps coming out of my body.

Did I lose too much blood?

No, it is different.

My heart and willpower were broken by Dionis.

"After all.....I was just being swept away by events....."(Iori)

I saw that Dionis had a big grin on his whole face.

But I can not say anything.

Because I cannot do anything.

It was the time when I was going to lose the strength that I going to use to

pull the sword.

"——Really, is it that so?"(Elfi)

I heard a feeble voice with the very same question that I heard in the Gouache library.

"Were you really.....just being swept away?"(Elfi)

".....Silence"(Dionis)

As swords pierce into Elfi who opened her mouth. Guh.....After spitting small a breath. Nevertheless, Elfi continued with her words.

"Three decades ago.....Did you really fight, just because you being swept away?"(Elfi)

"SHUT YOUR DAMN TRAP!"(Dionis)

The sword inflicts damages on Elfi. Yet Elfi does not stop.

"At that time——You didn't abandon me at the Labyrinth of Hades"(Elfi)

It is a time when we fought with the Earth Demon Lord and I once, tries to abandoned Elfi while escaping by myself.

"If you ran away at that time, you might have been saved yourself"(Elfi)

While an irritated Dionis persistently attacking Elfi.

"If you are really.....!! Simply being swept away, you would just abandon me.....!!"(Elfi)

That was————

"I know you who had fought against the Maou forces for years.....!"(Elfi)

"————"(Iori)

"There will be no reason for you to keep fighting! If you are just being was swept away, right!"(Elfi)

"————"(Iori)

As a blade hit Elfi face.

Elfi hangs down her face as blood gushes out.

"I have told you to shut your trap didn't I!?"(Dionis)

Ignoring the noise, Elfi asked me one more time.

"——Truly, were you just being swept away?"(Elfi)

As for me.

I'm—————

".....I wanted to help"(Iori)

"Even if the "Hero" alone could survive, there is still hope" and it was said by someone who died to protect me. Besides, there was a someone who got hurt because of protecting me and I saw my friends who fought together with me was getting hurt many times.

I thought.

The friend who fights together.

The friend who is hurt, and suffers.

I want to help Luser, Dionis and Lucifina.

The trigger was just that.

Then, I saw a lot of people, the human, demi-human and the Mazoku and I saw many people were hurt in war.

To save the world, to make peace, to end the war.

There was no such exaggerated feeling to want to actually save all people. Albeit those ideals were all borrowed later.

——I saw so many crying faces.

The crying face of those who suffer, wounded, dying, lost their precious person, lamenting and sadness.

I saw it and thought.

How good it would be if I could turn that crying face into a laugh.

"As for the world peace.....is certainly after that. However, it is true that I wanted to help the grieving person in front of me"(Iori)

"Well, having said such a sweet thing? You truly cannot be rescued anymore, don't you?"(Dionis)

The friend who gets hurt in front of my eyes and those people who grieve in front of me. Because I thought that there is no choice but to end the war forsake of a smile.

Because I thought that there was no other option but to become a hero.

"Oh, come on Amatsu. That cheap hypocrisy is just a worthless garbage which was only overcome by feeling, you know"(Dionis)

I did not hear that irresponsible criticism anymore.

The power is a borrowed thing.

The ideal is an afterthought.

Now I lose both of them and heroes are nonsense and no more than something laughable.

It is not a borrowed thing and it's not an afterthought. Without being swept away by someone.

At that time, I'm sure.

"——I decided myself become a hero"(Iori)

Then, there was a sound of iron breaking and it was the sword that sewed my limbs into the ground are shattered into pieces.

I raised as my limbs have become free.

"Wha.....my sword is"(Dionis)

I almost fell down as I trying to move towards the astonished Dioni.

My legs are *GakuGaku* trembling as there is no strength left in my whole body while having no magical power anymore.

"Ha.....you startled me with that dead body of yours. Fine, if it's the case, I'm gonna kill that woman right now!"(Dionis)

Countless swords are created by the "Blade Trigger". It was the tempest of the sword which was full of a severe magical power that different from those when he mess about until then. It is being shot off toward Elfi.

I saw Elfi is already closing her eyes as if she already has given up.

But, I cannot do anything with the present me.

Nonsense, as I forcibly draw strength from my body.

I won't let you kill Elfi.

I do not want that fellow to die.

——I want to help her.

"————"(Iori)

Suddenly, a noise ran into my sight.

The world is dyed in grey while the movement of thing that came into my view has become slow. The sword that has been released approaching Elfi are frozen.

At that moment, a man's back emerged in the grey sight.

While looking at it, I mutter unintentionally.

"Ah.....So, that what it really was?"(Iori)

The back which I looked at several times after I being re-summons for second times. The young man of the ash-haired who just look forward.

The farthest existence that seems to be the closest. I would not understand it so far because I avoided confronting it as myself was being blinded by blind rage.

But now.

I finally noticed the real identity of the man.

——Hero Amatsu.

That was the former me when I lived in the past. Advocate a worthless ideal and brandish a borrowed power.

Nevertheless, it's my power as I genuinely want to help someone.

——I reach out my hand at the back of that Amatsu.

My power has gone.

I also lost my ideals.

Still, I want to save Elfi.

"Therefore ——" (Iori)

Reproduce it.

The power of the former me.

Exactly, without a single millimetre of deviation. So if it does, my power would reach the fellow.

So that, I will be able to save Elfi.

The proof of hero emits scorching light. The hot impulse in my chests has taken its form. With the guidance of the magical power, I uttered the image word.

"——【Hero Reproduction】" (Iori) TN it could be read as【The Rise】

## Chapter 19: Hero Reproduction

"Ha.....you startled me with that dead body of yours. Fine, if it's the case, I'm gonna kill that woman right now!"(Dionis)

As the furious Dionis releasing his suppressed magical power for the purpose of tormenting Elfisuzaku.

Space is wavering like the shaking surface of a water before innumerable swords which contained an abominable magical power to appears.

"Farewell, Elfisuzaku! Don't worry, because Amatsu will soon follow after you!"(Dionis)

While making some high-pitched harsh ridicule, Dionis swung down his arm.

As a signal to that, numerous blades that like bullets are launched toward Elfisuzaku who had been crucified.

——So, this is it, huh.

The death which cannot be avoided approaches.

The death that awaits Elfisuzaku was a darkness where there is no sound nor light.

Her body is trembling while her breath is disordered, and she was paralyzed just by recalling that darkness.

It was something impossible for she who was crucified to be saved anymore.

Hence,

——So, at least I want lori to live.

Is the final wish of Elfisuzaku who already give up.

—Frightened by the death of second ahead, she closed her eyes.

"———"(Elfi)

However, there was no impact.

While she could felt there's a breeze.

Then followed by the continuous sound of iron shattering.

What happened?

As the bewildered Elfisuzaku opens her eyes.

All the swords that were approaching toward her were shattered into pieces.

Absolutely, not a single one of them remained.

At such event which should be astounded, the consciousness of Elfisuzaku is already turned at something else.

———The wavering flame that came into her sight.

"———"(Elfi)

A gentle warm flame.

Although it took her a couple of seconds to grasp that it was not the true nature of the flame. Because of the true identity of the gently swaying flames——Was no other the youth whom she knew well.

"I, Iori"(Elfi)

However, Iori's fighting spirit was totally different from usual.

The pressure itself is strong enough to overwhelm Elfisuzaku's who was a former demon king herself.

That's right.

——It is totally like the hero from some time ago.

"Thanks, Elfi"(Iori)

The'Crimson Armor'——The area which dyes by the Crimson colour will be increased depending on the amount of magical power of the wielder.

And now, it was completely dyed in crimson.

Iori turns over to her which has made his overcoat swaying like a flame as it reacts to his movement.

And in a gentle tone, he says.

"——It'll be all right now"(Iori)

His sword with an excellent blade was emitting the radiance of the jade as he



holding it in his hand. In that instant, the sword which sewing the limbs of Elfisuzaku to the wall is broken and scattered.

Immediately as she was falling facing toward the water, she sensed her body are floating gently.

When she regained her senses, before she knew it she was being embraced by Iori.

Thus, Iori leapt and reached to the entrance of the room in no time, before he put Elfisuzaku gently on the floor.

"....."(Dionis)

While remaining silent, Dionis is invoking the "Blade Trigger".

The blade that has been created is fired consecutively and comes flying to Iori.

However——

"Soft Sword • Sixth Ogre Sword——"Crumbling Blade""(Iori) All the swords were shattered into pieces by a single attack of Iori sword.

As those swords didn't even have a chance to explode as it happened in a second.

"Ha, Hah!?"(Dionis)

In such spectacle, Dionis exclaiming and shouting.

"What was that.....! You were supposed to losing your power, weren't you!?"  
(Dionis)

".....What are you so surprised about? That's the technique you taught me"  
(Iori)

Iori remained calm opposite to the shaken Dionis.

Dionis is furious after saw such figure,

"Did you hide your power.....!? Amatsu, you tricked me! You coward!!"  
(Dionis)

Assuming that Iori was hiding his power, Dionis is enraged and raved. But

Elfisuzaku was aware of it. The magical power he wears is somewhat different from the past.

Strong magical power and unshaken heart. The domain where it was allowed for those who have combined the two are allowed to reach. It rivalling to the lost magic, the hidden mysteries of the magic.

Its name is,

"——"Mental Magic""(Elfi)

——Amatsuki lori has now reached the pinnacle of magic.

"Hah! It is too late to get serious now! Because I! Has completely surpassed! You!!"(Dionis)

As Dionis roars.

He was releasing all his magical power and developed countless swords around him. It was not the degree of the number up to now, and the amount of magical power that was put in was also enormous.

"Just wait a bit——I'll end it shortly"(lori)

lori calmly said it while facing him.

Immediately after that, the wind blew along with the figure of lori in front of her vanishes at the same time.

"Prepare to meet your doom, AMATSUUUU!!"(Dionis)

As the Water Demon Lord unleash his loss magic like a tempest.

The former hero who using his mental magic is running through it.

"————"

As the blade that hit lori crumbles down and scatters.

——In a blink of an instant, lori has shortened the distance without stopping his feet.

In reaction to such figure, it sends chills down to Dionis' spine.

"——!! "Break Magic""(Dionis)

Dionis impatiently snaps his finger. Which caused the magic swords which are

filled with enormous magical power to rampage before causing a tremendous explosion.

Before the explosion with the power surpassing even the Elfisuzaku's demon eyes, Iori is——

"S—Such!?"(Dionis)

——Leaving the explosion behind, he has approached before the eye of Dionis.

"——Did you think you could reach this level of speed?"(Iori) Dionis opens his eyes wide in surprise by a single blow of the speediness like the act of God.

Even “Triple Acceleration” is not worth considering by such flash that causes Dionis can only take a defensive posture.

The instant he receives a flash of shining Jade Longsword.

"BuhARGHH!?"(Dionis)

The world he sees has reversed.

It is not possible to determine which one is the above and which is below.

Before long, he finally realized that he was flutter about in the air after feeling a sense of floating.

He is wrapping his body with water in order to kill the impact. In his view that became normal, he saw the shadow which ran straight toward his direction.

".....Don't come, don't come!!"(Dionis)

As he sends a mass attack with the greatsword which he created by using the magical power of “Ogre Conversion”.

It was impossible to be avoided as it came from every direction in such perfect timing. In addition to that, the sure kill “Magic Break” is being activated with a time lag.

The past few years, Dionis has been slaughtered all his enemies with this technique.

Despite that,

"Why doesn't it WOOOOORK!?"(Dionis)

The sweeping from every direction is all dodged.

The sword is shattered and the explosion of "Magic Break" is split by Iori. At such overwhelming magical power and strength, it has made him trembling unconsciously.

Dionis knows this power.

It was the power of the damned hero whom he fought together with for several years.

The body reinforcement by the magical power that surpassed even the Onizoku itself and the magical power that being releases are comparable with the Mazoku itself.

There's a lot of things have been done to prevent the equipment or article from reaching him, make him fought with many powerful Mazoku in order to exhaust him, then deceive him into drinking poison before taken him by surprise, and finally, such monster has been killed.

It is the power that should not be attainable by a powerless human.

"Bullshit! You're the inferior species, don't look down on me!!"(Dionis)

He unable to stomach such reality.

It was something unacceptable to him for such trash to go beyond himself.

He stepped back many times in the wide room as he desperately to take some distance from Iori.

"——Oh, that's right"(Dionis)

Breakthrough the sword of a storm and look at the position of approaching Iori, the face of Dionis distorted with a smile.

Consequently, he creates countless new swords.

It was not Iori where the point was directed to, but

"Your beloved Elfisuzaku are defenceless, you know!?"(Dionis)

Followed by Dionis sweeping those swords towards Elfisuzaku who was

leaning against the wall as she watching over the fight.

There is no technique that is available for exhausted Elfisuzaku to use.

“And when that disgusting naive man throws himself to protect Elfisuzaku”

——I’ll skewer you there!

Dionis was having a big grin on his face while he visioning such a thing.

“——”Magic Usurpation”——”(Iori)

Instantly, it as if he saw an illusion of room being swallowed by the darkness itself.

"Eh.....?"(Dionis)

All blades which were shot to Elfisuzaku had disappeared.

Yet, that’s not all.

The sword that Dionis had developed on his rear and the barrier that covered the entrance along with the trap that he placed in the room has totally disappeared.

All kinds of magic were gone in a blink of an eye.

"Wha, wha....."(Dionis)

Dionis knows this technique.

It was something that used by the “Hero Amatsu”, a unique magic that deprives and exhausts the surrounding magical power.

"——You are the one, who defenceless, you know"(Iori)

"Hii...!"(Dionis)

A slash did by Iori.

"Soft Sword • Fifth Ogre Sword——”Crushing Collision”"(Iori)

"D—Don’t underestimate me——ah!?"(Dionis)

Dionis prepares himself at the approaching blow of the sword.

The soft sword is a sword technique that capable to ward off the magical attacks.

He tries to counter hit against the attack of lori.

"Impos—!?"(Dionis)

The instant when he did that, the shock runs through the handle of his sword.

The bone of the finger of his left hand which was grasping the handle is broke due to the shock.

"GYAAaaaAAAAaAAAA!!"(Dionis)

Once, Dionis remembers the sense of superiority to lori who beg him for taught the sword technique that he actually whimsically taught him.

The soft sword with a lot of counter technique that turned into an aggressive attack, Dionis very own unique sword technique—— The “Ogre Sword”. Currently, was attacking Dionis itself.

"It’s a lie"(Dionis)

Dionis releases magic while being blowing away.

"Lie, lie, lie! Such a thing! It’s a lie!"(Dionis)

Not only the sword, the water bullet, the water serpent, all attack which he can use was shot in rapid succession randomly.

"———"

The serpent is drawn out from the ominous water sphere. But it was being cut down with one stroke of the Hero Amatsu sword.

Next, he shoots hundreds of water bullets. However, Hero Amatsu avoids with a minimal movement.

After that, he poured the water current with his highest magical power.

Once again, with just a single word from Hero Amatsu, the magic has been erased completely.

Even if he bares his fangs with all his might.  
Whatever trick he might use.

The Hero Amatsu corners the water ogre Dionis head on.

Impossible to surpass.

He unable to have such illusions.

He can't even deny it.

Why was he called as a Hero of salvation?

Why was the Mazoku being cornered by him?

Everything was being told by those martial and magic skills.

"It's impossible! For such a thing!"(Dionis)

The reality before his eyes won't change even if he denies it.

Still, Dionis had no choice but to scream.

Toward such appearance of him, lori scornfully distorts his mouth.

"It's important to not give up, but sometimes it's important to look at reality', wasn't it?"(lori)

".....!"(Dionis)

"I will return it back to present you"(lori)

"A.....AmaaaaAAAA!!"(Dionis)

While erasing Dionis magic, Amatsu keeps approaching him.

As for the loss magic which he attains after long training and the water magic which is suitable for the title of "Water Ogre" does not reach lori, too.

Impossible.

It is strange.

That fellow should be looked down on by me.

To grovel on the ground and beg for forgiveness.

"Why, why are you looking down on MEEEEEEEEEE!!"(Dionis) The approaching lori eyes were cold.

It is the eye that totally looks at the filth.

To look down on me.

I'm the Water Demon Lord.

"No, nooo"(Dionis)

Dionis shakes his head in denial.

"No, no, no! Do not look down on me with that mere human position of

yours!!!!"(Dionis)

He invokes the “Blade Trigger” with all his magical powers.

The most powerful blow where he put all his magical powers on every single one of the sword that further strengthened by his water magic.

If it were the previous Iori, those power alone enough to erased him without even using such technique.

Nevertheless,

"——Say, Dionis"(Iori)

One swing.

With that alone, such attack has completely vanished without a trace.

"Hii"(Dionis)

"I didn't notice it because we were friend, but"(Iori)

"Stop it! Don't say it! Don't——"(Dionis)

It was the word that Dionis did not want to hear most.

"——You're unexpectedly weak"(Iori)

"AAAAAaaaaAAAHHHH"(Dionis)

He is being looked down by Amatsu who was a mere human.

Dionis screams due to such reality.

".....If I judge it by my ability in the days when I was a Hero, though"(Iori)

"This, this is strange! This is wrong no matter how I think about it!"(Dionis)

There's no use to argue about it.

Iori approaches before his eyes.

"Wait.....waitwaitwaitwait, Please Wait!"(Dionis)

Hence, the “Magic Usurpation” has snatched the magical power that was put to the sword,

"I understood! I return it! I will return it!"(Dionis) He took out the'Keystone'which was kept in his pocket and showed it to Iori.

However, Iori will not stop.



"I-I apologize! I'm sorry! It was my fault!"(Dionis)

He does not stop.

"T—that's right! W—what about these guys?"(Dionis)

Snapping his finger, he calls out the crystals containing large amounts of women.

the women inside are already dead in despair and suffering, while Iori keeps approaching him.

Dionis lifted his hand to threaten, but it was when he finally noticed that there was Iori who already went into motion with a sword in front.

"WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, PLEASE WAIT!!"(Dionis)

"———"(Iori)

"Friend! Aren't we are friend!? We have travelled together for years! Are you intent on killing such friend!? H—hey, Amatsu, try to remember those old days——"(Dionis)

Rapidly spouting some bullshit.

"——Just shut your damn trap, already"(Iori)

His words were cut off as the sword which contains an overwhelming magical power is being swung down.

"HiaaaaAAAAAHHH!?"(Dionis)

While having a sense where space is distorted.

Dionis consciousness was reaped just by experiencing that alone.

## Chapter 20: Dionis Harberg

T——I couldn't stand being looked down on.

Being persecuted as a traitor by the demon king forces, not being trusted and shunned by both humans and demi-people.

I, Dionis Harberg being born into the Onizoku that was shouldered such a fate.

Every Onizoku was born with two horns by birth.

The magical power is controlled by those pair of horns.

However, I only have a horn growing on my forehead.

It took me much more effort than any other Onizoku to use magic. Moreover, I was physically weak and lose by power even to someone younger than myself.

It such a laughable body.

'Even if there is a horn, you are still my wonderful son'

Said by scum father who doesn't have any redeeming feature other than his huge body frame.

'Dionis, I am happy just by you being healthy'

Said by scum mother who understands nothing while smiling to me, because no way I'm healthy if I had only a horn.

'Onii-chan! Teach me magic!'

Said by scum little sister who behaves like a spoiled child while trying to steal the water magic which is my special skill in spite of being born with two horn herself.

"Don't fuck with me!"(Dionis)

Everyone in the village felt pity for me whom only has a horn.

I hate it, it's irritating, it's nauseated.

Everyone makes a fool of me just because I'm lacking a horn.

"Every last one of them are looking down on me"(Dionis)

I can't stand being looked down on.

That's why I put my hand on everything.

Because I had a talent.

As for the sword, magic and even the jujutsu, I acquired it more than the average person by just having a bit practice.

The control of magic and strength were compensated by skills accordingly.

In just a few years, I became the strongest in the village.

The people in the village were weaker than me despite I has a handicap of having one horn.

Utterly, it makes me laugh.

Because every last one of them is no more than an incompetence trash.

Rather, I feel pity for them.

'Dionis is really amazing. You are amazingly awesome!!!'

In spite of know nothing about myself, my whores of a childhood friend, Sharley, said that as she tries to get close to me.

Then after a while, I came to be called the strongest water user——"Water Ogre".

It feels good to be adored by those heaps of trash.

After that, my glance turned to the outside of the Onizoku.

The irritating inferior species which look down on the Onizoku.

Start from that time, I have decided that I'm going to look down on everything except for myself.

To trampling, humiliating, and ridiculing.

Therefore, I betrayed the self-important Amatsu whose was greatly adored by the human. Then, I accept the invitation of Lucifina and decided to join the demon king forces.

I feel sick with the self-important Amatsu whose talking about a borrowed ideal with a position of a mere trash that unable to do nothing if he doesn't

have those powers.

There is no need for a human to be stronger than me. Plus, he's similar to those people in the village, encourages me out of sympathy while looking down on me.

That is why, when I saw the crying face when he was betrayed, I feel as if I were at the height of my emotions.

It was refreshing when I cut down Luser's who realised that he was on the side of being utilised all along.

It was a pleasant feeling as it became the habit of mine, to have slaughtered the humans and the demi-humans whom Amatsu helped before.

Not only the other races but the Onizoku who did not submit to me were also annihilated. Both my parents and my little sister was made into a mere lump of meat while I ridicule at their crying figure.

As for Sharley who are nothing than her good looks, she faint while having despair and pain as I turn her into one of my specimens.

I spare only Beltoga whose licked my shoes as he grovels in the ground. Moreover, I did not care about someone that unworthy for such title of "Flame Ogre". Furthermore, I intended to kill him someday, but I was discouraged when I heard that he died in the Labyrinth of Purgatory.

By killing Amatsu, I got to be entrusted with the labyrinth which is the stronghold for the demon king forces.

But I'm not going to end up in such place because I'm gonna slay the arrogant demon king who was in the demon king castle and trample down all the races who look down on me.

I came to able to use the "Demonization".

I also mastered the loss magic.

I will not lose to anyone because right now I'm the mightiest existence.

From now on I will look down on others because I have been looked down a lot until now.

Humans, demi-humans, Mazoku's and I will turn every single one of them to slave.

I trampled everything and kill them in despair.

I'm going to die in peace after I fulfil all of that.

I can not stand to be blended with the magical power.

I shall reach my contented death in order for me attain my own form in the netherworld.

I will have a peaceful death.

That's what it is———

"———Ah?"(Dionis)

As I was awakened after my body was shaken and my whole body is damaged for some reason.

For some reason, my magical power is scarce too.

"What is happen to me....."(Dionis)

My memory is vague.

As I wake up slowly.

"——Good Morning, Dionis"(Iori)

And it came into view.

It was the appearance of Amatsu who is smiling gently like a devil.



"Hii~"(Dionis)

Dionis shrieking simultaneously when he saw my face as he was trying to drawing back, but unfortunately for him, he was hindered by the chain that binding his legs before he falls to the ground after being pulled by the chain.

"Wha, what is this?"(Dionis)

"It's a chain, what else?"(Iori)

I attached it while he was sleeping pleasantly, it was a measure to avoid him

from escape.

".....The! It—It can't be broken.....!?"(Dionis)

Although Dionis put his strength to destroy it, the chain just raises *Jiyarari* sound.

".....!? Amatsu, what are you going to do with me!? What the hell....."(Dionis)

"Relaxed, why don't you take a look to see what happens to your forehead first?"(Iori)

"Forehead.....?"(Dionis)

Dionis stretches his hand on the forehead while having questioning looks. And, he seemed to have noticed that there was nothing at somewhere it should.

"Ah.....AaaAAAH!?"(Dionis)

"Your horn is unexpectedly brittle, ain't it? It broke after being touched lightly by Elfi, you know"(Iori)

"My horn are—AaaaRGH!?"(Dionis)

For an ogre, their horn is quite an important body part. Because the Onizoku performing the tuning of their magical power is by using their horn. Therefore if the horn is gone, they won't be able to use their magic as before.

"Wh, why did you do something such.....!"(Dionis)

"Because it would be troublesome to be attacked right after you woke up, won't it? "(Iori)

"Even so, that is soo cruel! With this, I won't be able to use magic anymore!?"(Dionis)

Dionis crying while having his indigo hair dishevelled.

He probably unaware of it yet because he just woke up, thus I say something interesting.

"Rest assured, Dionis. Even if you can't use magic right away, it will not be a problem anymore"(Iori)

"Eh.....?"(Dionis)

"Elfi"(Iori)

The moment the signal was issued, the body of Dionis was floating in the air.

Dionis which is lifted in the air is letting out a shriek.

"Hii.....!"(Dionis)

"Fumu, this chain is quite convenient"(Elfi)

The tip of the chain which is floating in the air was reacting according to the magical power.

It is now being controlled by Elfi.

"I was quite troubled by how I'm going to exact my revenge on you"(Iori)

"Re, revenge.....?"(Dionis)

I speak slowly to Dionis who was hanging in the midair.

"Pure torture, continue suffering endlessly with continuation-type potion as I make you drink the poison of the swamp....."(Iori)

"A, are you going to do such a thing to me!? You're crazy!!"(Dionis)

".....Aah, That's why I choose such more reasonable means, you know. Because 'water' is the right thing for you"(Iori)

I give a signal.

That instant, the chain which Elfi controlled to move and knocked off Dionis who hanging in midair into the water.

"There is plenty of water in this room and it would be a waste for not making good use of it, right"(Iori)

"Ga, Bo!"(Dionis)

Dionis which is thrown into the water were squirming about. Because of his tied legs, Dionis can only *PataPata* flapping his hands.

His breath ran out before long, and it seems that he noticed a change in his body as he swallowed the water unintentionally.

"Ga.....Bo! Go, GoBoo!? GoOOOO!!"(Dionis)

As he restrains his belly with free hands while screeching with a desperate look.

He seems to have swallowed a lot of water in the meantime.

"GoOo.....o"(Dionis)

"Hmph"(Elfi)

Elfi raised him to somewhere nearby as his white eye rolled up.

Dionis which was slammed on the ground has to spit out an impossible amount of water out of his mouth.

".....lori, I can not bear to watch it, but"(Elfi)

"You have to endure with it"(lori)

Elfi frowned while having some bitter smile as she saw Dionis who *GeboGebo* vomiting the water.

He is vomiting water while suppressing his stomach as he struggles in suffering.

It is likely not to suffer this extent if the water were being drunk normally. But, I have done something to the current Dionis with a slightly special mechanism.

"What.....what the hell is this!!"(Dionis)

"While you were sleeping, I was doing some trick on your stomach"(lori)

Generally, the stomach has the role of digesting food, but it is not the only its functions. Among its functions, there is a thing that adjusts food to send to the duodenum. The part is known as 'Pylorus' that locate at the end of the stomach..... I intentionally prevented the function of "Healing Magic" around that area.

In other words, if the current Dionis drink the water, those water will flow directly into the duodenum.

It is hard to imagine how painful it is, for the water to enter to the intestines vigorously.



"Pylorus.....? My stomach.....?"(Dionis)

I explained it in detail, but Dionis seemed unable to understand it well.

"In short, you can drink as much water as you want"(Iori)

".....H, hey Amatsu. I do not know what you are saying from a while ago.  
What are you going to do with m, me.....?"(Dionis)

"There is nothing to ask because it already being decided"(Elfi)

Toward the questioning Dionis, Elfi mutters while lifting the chain.

That is exactly right.

There is no need to ask.

"——I'm going to kill you after you taste the suffering of hell"(Iori)

After confirming that Dionis had the expression of despair, Elfi knocked him down into the water once again.



"Gah.....GoO"(Dionis)

Dionis is struggling in agony in the water.

Because his legs are tied up with chains, he could only to flapping his arm around.

Plus, he cannot destroy the chain and unable to use his magic by the result having his horn broken.

"A—.....Amazu! Help.....!"(Dionis)

Currently, he is trying his best to raise his face to breathe desperately.

Moreover, it is an awfully funny scene to watch, how he begs to ask for help in those intervals.

Where did that high-spirited self until a while ago?

"You were the “Water Demon Lord” and the “Water Ogre”, right? It’s the title where the water was attached to it. So, of course, you like water, don’t you?"  
(Iori)

"Absurah! Ga, GoBobo"(Dionis)

"This is a gift from us. You should drink water to the fullest, okay"(Iori)

".....!? .....!?"(Dionis)

Apparently, he seems to like it.

"Stop.....!! It doesn't mean I like water in particular!?"(Dionis)

"Fumu, hey water ogre. There's no need to hold back, okay?"(Elfi)

Elfi uses her demon eyes on Dionis who raised his face, to push back his face which was raised to catch some breath back into the water with the adjusted "Heavy Collapse".

While Elfi just looks at him with a severely cold expression as struggling Dionis continue *GaboGabo* drowning by water.

He won't take in the water if he just closes his mouth shut, but unfortunately for him because he had to open his mouth to catch some breath that has caused him to suffers and suffocated while doing so.

He writhes in agony each time he swallows a large quantity of water.

It a never-ending cycle.

Elfi seemed to get used to it as she cancelled her demon eyes somewhat before Dionys lost his strength.

Dionis was suffering from the water torture without having the leeway being able to faint.

"N, GaAAH"(Dionis)

Right now, Dionis is desperately trying to raise his face against gravity.

"What's the matter? You need to work harder to raise your face, you know"  
(Iori)

"Hngh.....Hngh....."(Dionis)

"I guess'You guys are inferior species should rejoiced for being looked down by me', wasn't it? Then, if it's the case, you have to raise your face or you won't be able to look down on us, right?"(Iori)

".....!!"(Dionis)

It seems that my irritation still remains in my words.

Clenched his teeth, he is staring at me as he raising his face.

"Ah! silly me. Well.....in such situations, you cannot do anything except to 'Look up' at me, don't you?" (Iori)

"Amazu! Don't fuk.....GaBO" (Dionis)

Dionis is being submerged in the water in the middle of his words.

"Bah.....hyaa.....Haa Haa....." (Dionis)

It was approximately fifteen minutes have passed since then.

Dionis is already asking for help by leaking a sobbing. His hair was *GushaGusha* dishevelled out of shape while his face became gooey with water, tears, mucus and saliva.

It would be quite boring to keep on going as it is.

So, I signalled Elfi to slight loosening the restraint on Dionis. With that, when Dionis barely stretches out his hand to reach out the scaffold.

"Aren't you glad? If you reach out, you can raise your face from the water, right?" (Iori)

".....!!" (Dionis)

Dionis seems cannot afford to speak another word while he keeps reaching out his hands with crying face.

Then, while desperately raising his face from the water, it was at timing when his hand reaching the platform——

"Gyaaa!?" (Dionis)

The hand which grasps the scaffold is lightly being stabbed with the knife.

Withdrawn his hand caused by pain, he struggling in the water once again.

"Uw, why.....?" (Dionis)

"You want to be spared, right? Then, you should do your best" (Iori)

"————" (Dionis)

Dionis seemed to notice my real intention.

From the beginning, I do not intend to let you grasp the platform.

"~~~~~!!"(Dionis)

Even after having understood that, Dionis have no choice but to reach out his hand.

Occasionally, Elfi submerges him into the water using her demon eyes.

In order to escape from suffering, he keeps reaching his hand for the platform.

"In my world, they refer to the current you as “A drowning man will clutch at a straw”\*(Iori)

TN Someone who is desperate will try to use anything for help, even if it is really no help at all\*

He grabs the platform.

Then be stabbed with a knife.

He grabs the platform.

Then be stabbed with a knife.

"Shtop.....me hand! It hurts!"(Dionis)

"Well, I'm quite surprised myself for you to have some guts to issue a complaint in front of the enemy who you pierced both arms and feet with swords, you know"(Iori)

"GaBaa.....Gaa"(Dionis)

The surface of the water turns red as Dionis' hands are *BoroBoro* battered with stab wounds.

"I'm dying! I'm dying, dying, dying, I'm gonna die.....!"(Dionis)

Eventually, it seems that the strength of his grip that grasping for the scaffold has gone.

Right now, Dionis can't even reach out his hand, he is only able to struggle in the water once again.

Now then.

Is it about time for the next stage.



"Uho.....Geho.....Oueeeh"(Dionis)

Dionis is being pulled out from the water once again.

He vomits a lot of water out of his mouth.

"As one would expect from a “Water Demon Lord”,  
to be able to produce water from its mouth alone even when can’t use magic,  
huh"(Iori)

"Help me.....Please help me.....!"(Dionis)

It seems that those words do not enter his ear as he begins to desperately beg  
for his life.

"I’ll return the stone which I stole! The Labyrinth Core along with the body  
part of Elfisuzaku too! Amatsu! N, no Amatsu-sama! Forgive me.....! Please  
forgive me!!"(Dionis)

".....Fumu. Iori, what are you saying?"(Elfi)

"Well, let’s start with the traitor first"(Dionis)

Dionis *PeraPera* fluently sells the information of his associates in fast talkers.

Most of it was a thing that already extracted from the memory of Luser.

However, there was a harvest.

Besides there is a face that I have seen, it seems there were others who  
cooperated with Lucifina and Dionis.

I kept those name firmly in my memory.

"So you don’t have any other information?"(Iori)

"Oh, there is! It regarding the subordinate of Elfisuzaku.....!"(Dionis)

".....Hou"(Elfi)

Elfi subordinates which were certainly slaughtered by Ortega.

However, it seems that it was not all.

I do not know the number of people it is, but it seems there are people who manage to escape from the slaughter.

"....."(Elfi)

Elfi closed her eyes and fell silent to think.

"Then.....I have will tell you a lot!! So, please spare me!"(Dionis)

".....Let's see, well then Dionis, I have a good suggestion, but do you want to hear it?"(Iori)

"I'll hear it! I'll listen, I'll listen, please allowed me to hear it!"(Dionis)

Dionis *BunBun* shaking his head.

As there was no helping for it, I suggested it to him.

"While grovelling in the ground and licking the floor with upturned eyes, in apologise say'I am an incompetent scum who can only harass the weak and I'm sorry for betraying you'and I might spare your life, you know"(Iori)

"Wha.....!"(Dionis)

To such suggestion, Dionis face which was pale blue is slightly turning reddish.

Well, I guess he is furious deep in his heart.

Such a thing is said by someone "lower rank, the weakling" whom he looked down on until a while ago.

When I judging from the way he is, he won't...

"———!"(Iori)

Dionis was grovelling in the ground.

While *PuruPuru* trembling, he stretching his tongue to the floor.

While shedding tears, he *PeroPero* licking the floor.

"I.....I am an in.....in, incompetent scum who.....can only.....ha, harass the weak. I.....I'm so, so, sorry.....for.....betray, betraying y, you.....!"(Dionis)

He really did the apology that I said to him.

I'm a little surprised.

Because this bastard got high feelings of pride, I assumed that he would say "As if I would do such a thing!" while losing his temper.

Even so, he seemed doesn't want to die.

"A, Amatsu-sama.....Because I did as I was told.....Can you spare me, please?"(Dionis)

"Aah"(Iori)

With a subservient smile, Dionis reaches out his hand.

"——I'm just fooling around, you know"(Iori)

With the Jade Longsword, I lop off his outstretched wrist.

"Wha.....?"(Dionis)

"As if I'm going to spare you. You told me that earlier, right? The'Why do you believe what others say unconditionally? I can't understand it'"(Iori)

"Hae.....iiiiiiiiiiii!?"(Dionis)

"I don't understand too, you know. At this stage, you still have a nerve to believe that you would be spared"(Iori)

Dionis is screaming while restraining his arms.

"This won't happen if you didn't betray me at that time, besides"(Iori)

"AhAhAaaaRGhhH"(Dionis)

Consequently, *Bon* boom sound echoes successively. A cloud made of a red chunk falls like the rain to the surroundings.

"Haaeh?"(Dionis)

The other arm of Dionis was also gone missing from the wrist.

"——If you don't kill my subordinate, this won't happen, don't you think so?"(Elfi)

Elfi said that with her eyes turn red.

"Guh.....Gah, Gah.....Gah"(Dionis)

Dionis starts convulsions spouting some red bubbles.

I was able to listen to the information while performing quite considerable harassment on him.

Two more steps left before I shall end it.

I take out the magic stone from the pouch.

While receiving the magical power from the magic stone, I extended my hand to Dionis' head.



"Ah"(Dionis)

Dionis woke up by the time the preparation was over.

At the same time, he groans in the pain caused by the arm which got blown and lops off.

Right now Dionis were hanging in the mid-air in a state of “大” great character.

Like those specimen which he made terribly until now.

"Shall we end it Dionis"(Iori)

"Uugh.....! Wait.....Don't kill me.....! We were friends, right.....?"(Iori)

".....Please, don't make me laugh. As if we were friend"(Iori)

Dionis turns his eyes towards Elfisuzaku while raising a low cry.

"I was wrong.....! I, I was ordered! To kill your companions, by Ortega.....! Everything was that scoundrel faults!"(Dionis)

".....Iori. That fellow named Luser's aside, why did all of your acquaintance not knowing when to give up?"(Elfi)

I would like to know it too.

While Dionis cries out saying “I do not want to die, I do not want to die”

"Every single one of you guys is always like that.

In spite of *GeraGera* laughing when hurting and trampling others. Every each one of you will start crying and beg for help after yourself is being put in such situation. Hey, have you ever let those who asked you to spare them to live?"



(Iori)

Dionis body *WanaWana* trembling before he begins to shout out.

".....! I am a genius, you get it! Unlike those inferior species such as humans and demi-humans! What's wrong with cleaning the trash!"(Dionis)

".....Well, I agree with the last part though. I feel no sense of guilt in cleaning the trash called "you""(Iori)

"Hii.....!"(Dionis)

It's the final finishing.

I'm directing the Jade Longsword toward Dionys who cannot move.

"Three decades ago, I was pierced through my chest by you in the Demon King Castle, right? Now, I will return those debts of yours right here"(Iori)

"Hiii!? No! NoNoNo, Don't do it! I will die if you do such a thing!"(Dionis)

"Aah, you're going to die. Pierce through the chest as it is and to sink to the bottom of the water"(Iori)

"I do not want to die, I do not want to die, I do not want to die! I want to have my contented death! I want to die happily! I'm going to the netherworld! I don't want to die, STOOOOoooOooOOP!!"(Dionis)

Followed by the sound of sword *Zupuri* penetrated the chest.

"Hyaa, Buh"(Dionis)

Dionis' body loses power as he spat his breath.

Dionis fell into the water while tying by the chain on his foot.

He disappears to the bottom of water while dyeing the surface of the water into the red.

"Was that all right?"(Elfi)

I nod at Elfi question.

"Aah, It was unnecessary, but it was something necessary to do"(Iori)



I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you!

While sinking to the bottom of the water, I chew the potion that I had been hide on the back of my teeth.

The last insurance that I kept for just in case.

The scar of the fatal wound opened to the chest is slightly blocked, and my magical power recovers only a little.

I'll kill, I'll kill, I'll kill, I'm gonna kill both Amatsu and Elfisuzaku along with every single one of them too, I'll kill, I'll kill, I'll kill, I'll kill

Directing the wrist before me, I advance through the water.

Even without horns, a little magical power is sufficed enough to enable me to use magic.

I use the magic in the direction where I direct my wrist as I keep moving forward little by little.

I, no other than the "Water Demon Lord" and the "Water Ogre" itself.

It is easy to get through the predicament of this degree.

There's a room in the depths of the water that has a hidden passage that leads to the outside. It is my victory if I manage to swim there.

I gonna heal my wound and kills both of them. I give them pains of several thousand times that I tasted.

What the hell with revenge and vengeance, such an idiotic duo.

It turns out like this because I do not give the decisive blow to that incompetence duo.

I will definitely have my contented death.

I cannot die in such a place.

To the netherworld, I'm going to the netherworld.

The hidden passage came into my view.

I escaped from there, then I———

"———"(Dionis)

What is this?

My sight is dyed white for a moment.....

"——!?"(Dionis)

Eyes.

Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,  
Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes,Eyes.

Every single one of them was looking at me.  
There were looking down on me.  
To ridicule and make fun of me.

Stop it, and stop it, and stop it, and stop it!

"Hii!"(Dionis)

I swung my handless arms restlessly.

No, that's not all.  
Clothes, skin, everything has eyes.  
Everything looks down on me.

"AAARGHbOafGabBAff!"(Dionis)

The water comes into my mouth as my breathing is disturbed.  
I can't breathe.

"BOGAAaaAAh!?"(Dionis)

Water enters into the depths of my stomach.  
Cold pain, sore pain, sore, cold, painful, it hurts!

"NgOOooOoOOFF?!"(Dionis)

I can't see the hidden passage because of the eye to spreading through the whole surface.

I do not know where is in front, behind, above or below of me anymore.

The water keep comes in.

Those eyes still keep looking down on me.

Stop it, Stop it, Stop it, Stop it, Stop it, please stop it!!

"Nnnnmmff!"(Dionis)

Even if I close my mouth, I open it reflexive as I seek for oxygen.

Every time I did that, the water comes in.

My consciousness started to fade.

"Ba.....gaaaAAFF"(Dionis)

But those eyes don't go away.

Only the eyes remain vivid.

I do not want to.

It's a lie, it's impossible.

No, I do not want to, I don't want to die. I don't want to die!

"Nnoo.....OOH....."(Dionis)

I'm going to depart while having my contented death!

Because I, Dionis Harberg, are the "Water Ogre"!?

I do not want to die unsightly, I do not want to.

No, I'm afraid, I'm scared, help me, somebody helps me!

Lucifina, Luser, Amatsu, Elfisuzaku, anyone, anybody!

It is dark, It is dark, It is dark, It is dark, I'm scared, I'm scared, I'm scared, I'm scared!

AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH.

I'm sorry for betraying you, I was wrong!

Please, I'm begging you, Amatsu-sama, Elfisuzaku-sama please help me, I'm

begging you!

It's Lucifina fault, I was being deceived by her cajolery, Aaaaarghhh, No, I do not want to lie at that time, if I just don't betray you, I don't want this, I hate it, somebody please help me— —

"Mmf"(Dionis)

I don't want to die— — — —



The brainwash magic.

The technique that I stole from Olivia and used it on Dionis.

I planted a strong image in Dionis' brain.

Because he did not want to be looked down on, I purposely plant in his brain with plentiful images of 'Eyes that looking down on'

Because of that, I have been using a lot of magic stones on hand.

It took a lot of time.

When stabbing his chest, I deliberately to miss the fatal wound.

In order to not let him die, I applied a little healing magic too.

Why did I do that? Because I wanted to kill him in fear and despair.

Because of the lack of the magical power and extreme fatigue my consciousness is about to fade away.

"It's over"(Elfi)

".....Aah"(Iori)

I nod for words of Elfi as I maintain my consciousness.

Dionis

You certainly wanted to have a contented death.

The world after death— —to go to the netherworld.

The condition to go to the netherworld is a contented death without a regret.

"Say, Dionis"(Iori)

On the surface of the water which became calm, I asked.

"Have you obtained your contented death?"(Iori)

Though he does not hear it, the answer is probably not.

## Chapter 21: Believe In The Outcome Of The Decision

At the time when I opened my eyes, there is a red-haired woman who was looking into my face.

"!?"(Iori)

"Kyaa!"

Seeing that, I instinctively raise my body before both of our foreheads to collide accidentally with each other in agony.

That pain has made me realize that I already in the mansion of Karen's.

"Uugh....."(Karen)

.....Karen is holding her head with teary eyes.

Since the events with Dionis, I collected the labyrinth core while Elfi recovers her body part.

At that time, I was using all the potions I had in my possession and forcing my body to move, yet after reaching the limit.

I have fainted on the spot.

"I was glad that both of you are alive.....!"(Karen) Karen said with that with her trembling voice while shaking her red hair.

According to Karen's story, the soldier who led by her seems to have brought us here.

As soon as the labyrinth stops, the demonic beings which were in a state of panic have fled out of the labyrinth.

Karen who had been on the watch for it was annihilating those demonic beings and it seems that she stepped into the labyrinth after handling with it.

Because the labyrinth core is gone, the insides of the poison swamp seem to have become harmless. Fortunately, the rest of the traps has malfunctioned, too.

We have been rescued for about half a day after the labyrinth stopped.

It seems that has I slept for more than two days.

That right, regarding that fellow.

".....That's right. As for Elfi.....?"(Iori)

Because there is no figure of Elfi in the room. Moreover, she was being tormented by Dionis harsher than me.

After drinking the potion, both of us has exact our revenge on Dionis.....

Noway, could it be,

"Elfi-san was collapsed overlap with Iori-san"(Karen) ".....So, where is she now?"(Iori)

"She have woke up half a day ago and now she's eating"(Karen)

.....Ah, she seems to be fine.

"Is the village all right?"(Iori)

"Yes, now it has settled down "(Karen)

However, it seems that there are several victims has appeared after the occurrence of Dionis raid.

Karen said that there are two territories were devastated and now they are doing reconstruction work.

".....Is that so?"(Iori)

"Please do not do such a face. It's thanks to both Iori-san and Elfi-san, we got off with damage of this level"(Karen) In contrast with the face of Karen who said so, there is no despair could be trace from her expression albeit she was tired herself.

"Thanks to the both of you, my territory.....No, a lot of people have been saved. And also to removed the labyrinth that has threatened the empire.....I'm really thankful to both of you"(Karen)

I am at a loss for words to Karen who lowered her head at me because I just moved for the sake of my revenge.

There is no right for me to be thanked here.



".....That's right, I got this back from the Water Demon Lord"(Iori)

"The'Keystone'.....!"(Karen)

I collected it securely before killing Dionis.

"It may be too late to pass it now because the labyrinth is already gone....."  
(Iori)

"No"(Karen)

Karen shook her head and said,

"This stone, are crystals of will of the Rayford family such'I want to protect my people"and thank you for gaining it back"(Karen)

"Is that so"(Iori)

"But.....right"(Karen)

While Karen holding the keystone, she murmured.

"It is no longer necessary to seal the labyrinth anymore"(Karen)

Karen placed it on her lap as she feels relieved.

"Yeah.....that's right....."(Karen)

As tears *PoloPolo* fall from her eyes.

After her parents died, she must fulfil her obligation as a lord.

Thus, I had been listening to the sobbing of a woman who was liberated from such burden for a while.



As the flame is being shot.

The corpse of the lined victim burns in a blink of an eye.

I could see black smoke rising to the sky.

The peoples whose died caused by Dionis and the demonic beings.

Then, a funeral for the women who was become the specimens of Dionis.

" ....."

The people who were trapped in the crystal had already been dead. Even me and Elfi could not think of any way to save them.

Furthermore, years have passed since the time when they were trapped.

Judging from what we heard from Dionis, those victims don't have family, friends and the village where they used to live anymore.

I wonder if I only cause unnecessary trouble for those women at those places that were helped by me back then?

".....No"(Iori)

It is a reasoning of egoism living person.  
Nobody wanted to die.  
They should have wanted to be saved.

Dionis said that he killed all of them because I saved them.

Are those people who were killed have a grudge against me?

I don't know it either.

I just could only pray for their peaceful rest.

".....Excuse me"

I was called out suddenly from the behind and it is an unknown woman and girl was standing there.

"You are the one who released my mother from the Water Demon Lord, right?"

"....."(Iori)

One of the specimen women was the mother of someone who lived in this village. Moreover, it seems that the woman before me was away from the village before the raid of the Maou forces.

Therefore, she was the lone survivor of that village.

"Thank you for saving my mother....."

Said by the woman while lowering her head.

"....."(Iori)

While grabbing the hem of my clothes, the girl next to the woman said

"Thank you for helping my grandma!"

As the black smoke was rising in the blue sky.

Far and high.



Three days have passed since I woke up at Karen's mansion.

During those times, I had Karen to look for the person based on the information that I obtained from Dionis.

"If that were the case, I heard that (s)he is now managing an orphanage in the Holy Kingdom"(Karen)

".....An orphanage?"(Iori)

"Yes, with a map.....it, should be around here"(Karen) Karen pointed to the next revenge target.

There were two of them.

It seems they were living there as a married couple.

"They both was a quite an excellent alchemist Alchemist in the past. I heard that they are known as the Holy Parents who raising a child without the relative. Are you acquainted with them Iori-san?"(Karen)

Holy Parents, aren't they...

".....Yes, something like that"(Iori)

Aah, they were my acquaintance from three decades ago.

"I see.....But please be careful because there is a strange rumour around this vicinity"(Karen)

"A strange rumour.....?"(Iori)

It is just a rumour, but just in case, Karen said.

"A few times around this vicinity——"Hero Amatsu" seems to have been witnessed"(Karen)

That was a totally unexpected word.

"....."(Iori)

".....Hou"(Elfi)

Karen gave a bitter smile as she thought that, if it these two, whatever happens, they will be fine.



Leaving the Rayford territory, we were walking towards the east.

"As for being summoned to Imperial capital, was it okay to not attend it?"(Elfi)

The messenger from the emperor came over to the Rayford territory a few days ago. It was said that they wanted to meet us who subdued a labyrinth.

"Gratitude in name only because they only going to ask this and that anyway. It will be pointless to go"(Iori) Therefore we declined it politely.

Thanks to the understanding from the Emperor's side, they didn't detain us forcibly, thus now we advancing to our next destination.

"Nom.....Nom"(Elfi)

Elfi's chewing sound is heard from next to me.

What she *HaguHagu* eating was roasted squid, octopus or shellfish that covered with a sauce that being stabbed on the skewer.

She had eaten it since a while ago and her hands and mouth were sticky with the sauce.

.....She got dirtied herself up.

".....That's right, Which parts that you obtain from the labyrinth?"(Iori)

"It is both legs"(Elfi)

Elfi answered while *PonPon* slapping her knee.

"Meaning that the head, both arms and both legs have returned with this, huh"(Iori)

"Umu, as for remainder just the body and heart.  
As for Iori, what about you?"(Elfi)

What Elfi ask is regarding my magical power.  
I absorbed the third labyrinth core.

".....To be frank, it still far from my normal condition"(Iori) Albeit there is more magic is available than before.

It almost about 40% of my heydey and it became considerably better than the time when my magical power was not usable at all.

".....Fumu, Oh, that's right. Then, what was that mental magic?"(Elfi)

".....that"(Iori)

The "Hero reproduction". TN it other names are "The Rise"

At that time, it is a mental phrase that comes naturally in my head.

Because it was instant, I do not remember much of details.....

"Perhaps.....the magic that reproduces my powers during the heroic era.....I guess"(Iori)

I just thought I only acted merely in respond of being swept away. However, thanks to Elfi 's words, I learned it was not so.

It was acted because I have a feeling that'I want to help'

.....As a result, the mental magic that I obtained is the skill to reproduce "that" hero is slightly complicated though.

I do not want to be a brave or a hero anymore.

"Can you use it now?"(Elfi)

".....It is complicated. I don't think you can use it if I don't have those feeling like that time"(Iori)

"Really? Well.....Anyway, thanks to your mental magic, I was saved. Thank you, Iori"(Elfi)

I stop my legs and Elfi stares at me.

I faced her directly from the front and opened my mouth.

".....It is me who should be thankful to you"(Iori) When Elfi was induced by Dionis, I thought I was going to be betrayed.

But Elfi told me.

It's better to die than to betray a friend.

Besides, it was because Elfi was there I able to use the mental magic. Without that word, I would despair as it was and give up on everything.

That's why I'm the one who should say "thank you".

"Thanks to Elfi's presence, I did not give it up. I was able to think that I was not just being swept away. Therefore, thank you"(Iori)

".....Hm, hmph. Naturally"(Elfi)

While looking at the other way, Elfi is haughty cross her arm.

"You told me before, "You decide by yourself whether you can trust or not""(Iori)

".....Umu\*"(Elfi) TN Yep\*

Dionis was saying.

Even for a fellow Avenger, it is strange that they get together

I think so too.

Even if the purpose is the same, but those who are betrayed after all are merely used to licking each other's wounds.

Even so.

"If it with you, I thought that I could achieve my vengeance until the end"(Iori)

Therefore.

"——I will trust you, Elfisuzaku"(Iori)

"You're late" as Elfi laughs.

Her face is dirty with the sauce of the seafood skewer sauce and it messed up a lot. Still, by taking revenge on Dionis, I think that I push forward one more step once again.

——Therefore.

With Olivia and Dionis.

With this, I was able to retaliate on four of them. However, there are still many revenge targets.

If I use the acquired mental magic I will be able to break through Luser's "Karma of Reverse Burial".

Just wait.

As for the remaining revenge targets, I will kill every single one of them.

——For me to move on.